



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

LATE

February 12, 2009

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 1210 – Relating to Public Procurement

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full inclusion, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

DCAB supports Senate Bill 1210 Relating to Public Procurement. Giving bidders to government contracts a preference for pledging to hire individuals with disabilities or recipients of temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) indicates that the State is committed to the hiring of individuals from two underemployed groups.

Concerns we have are that after the contract is awarded how will an agency's pledge to hire individuals with disabilities or TANF recipients be monitored and enforced? If the pledge is not honored will the contract be rescinded? Are there any consequences for an agency that makes such a pledge and does not honor it? With such safeguards in place, it would strengthen the State's commitment to allowing such a preference.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. FLEMING
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director