

HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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THE SENATE THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Committees on Human Services Testimony in Support of S.B. 2067 Relating to Medicaid Eligibility

**Thursday, January 28, 2010, 1:50 P.M.
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun-Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

We support this bill because it offers good potential to secure the placement of individuals in community settings. The legislature has seen many examples in the past several years of the long waitlist for community housing experienced by patients in acute facilities. In addition, briefings have been provided by the Healthcare Association on the problems of placing "challenging" patients into community settings. One of the barriers identified has been the delays in processing Medicaid eligibility for these individuals. We support the provision regarding presumptive eligibility. Delays in processing these applications add to the problems of placing these individuals and are an unnecessary source of difficulty. There is no reason to delay these applications. It is our hope that this provision will help to alleviate the current problem experienced by hospitals as well as their waitlisted patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.