



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 16, 2011

LATE TESTIMONY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 70 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 16, 2011; 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 70 is to establish a Return-to-home Program to assist eligible homeless individuals to return to their home state if there is a support network available and able to receive them. Appropriates general funds and is effective July 1, 2011.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services has reservations regarding this measure. Additionally, we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal and the impact it may have to the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The Homeless Programs Office lacks the staffing to develop the program, implement administrative rules and procure/monitor the program to prevent abuse. The Department of Human Services' projected need of three additional homeless staffers to maintain the current homeless programs does not address the facilitation of new programs such as this one, which we do not know has precedence nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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