



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

February 10, 2011

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 725 - RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 725 is to substitute "parenting time" wherever the term "visitation" appears in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department cannot support this bill for the following reasons:

1. The definition of "visitation" is used identically in State and Federal laws and regulations and is applied by the Administration for Children and Families as a means to monitor the State's compliance with Federal requirements and required outcomes linked to "visitation".
2. Changing the definition could result in Chapter 587A, HRS becoming inconsistent with Federal Title IV-E requirements which could affect federal funding.
3. The term "visitation" should be maintained because it also includes a child's time with their siblings and other significant persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.