

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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**LATE**

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February 25, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 900, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2011; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 900, S.D. 1, is to establish the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness under the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes and makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives but we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal.

President Obama has renewed the effort to empower the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness through which the State of Hawaii is affiliated via the Region 9 Federal governance.

The establishment of a Hawaii interagency council on homelessness will allow the State to collaborate with the jurisdictional Interagency Councils across the nation to

continually fine tune the effort to end homelessness. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommends that the States establish such a State agency by legislative action or executive order, or both.

The appointment of Marc Alexander as the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, to spearhead homelessness collaborations across federal, State and County jurisdictions and with community and businesses partners, is an excellent starting point to revisit the State's Strategic Plan to End Homelessness and to provide the statewide collaboration needed to address homelessness issues through the backing of the Governor's Office.

We recommend deferral of this bill to allow the Department the opportunity to more fully discuss the coordination of efforts between the Governor's Office and DHS.

The Department's short staffed Homeless Program Office does not have the resources to administer and implement a statewide interagency council effectively.

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