

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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LATE

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. 912, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HOUSING**

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 912, S.D. 1, is to appropriate funds for the housing placement program within the homeless programs office of the Department of Human Services.

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 an adverse impact to the priorities as indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The landlord liaison program has been administered for a number of years through the State Homeless Programs which is now with the Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division.

The landlord liaison program cultivates landlords willing to take a chance on renting to credit risky families. The program also teaches families to understand the

terms of a lease agreement, how to budget wisely so as to make timely rent payments, and how to take care of the rental property.

The program is currently funded with Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) allocations so participants are restricted to TANF-eligible families.

Supplementary funding from the State would enable the contracted agencies to assist seniors, households without minor children and young adults. The program has been enormously successful in breaking the barrier of resistance in renting to Section-8 voucher holders and homeless families transitioning from a shelter to permanent housing.

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