

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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February 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2537 - RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS
CONCERNING APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS OF HUMAN
SERVICES AFTER AN IN CAMERA REVIEW BY THE COURT**

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2012; 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2537 is to allow the Department of Human Services to disclose confidential records pursuant to a court order, after an in camera review of the records by the court, upon a showing of good cause by the party seeking the release of the records.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services strongly supports this Administration bill.

Section 346-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, prohibits the Department of Human Services from disclosing confidential records and information except to specified persons or entities for specified purposes. This bill will allow the Department to disclose confidential information to parties, if the court determines, after an in camera review, that good cause exists for the disclosure. Also, parties needing the information

requested will now have a means of receiving confidential information if the court determines there is good cause.

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