

TESTIMONY

HB2568, HD2

**HTH
Committee Hearing
03-16-2012**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

HB 2568, HD 2, Relating to Background Checks

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

Friday, March 16, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports passage of this bill as part of the
2 Governor's package.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal implications are expected to be negligible and amount to the cost of
4 broad administrative oversight.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to change statutory language to allow DOH to
6 use a designee (vendor) to perform background checks as required by law on certain healthcare workers,
7 employees, and owners or operators of care homes or other healthcare organizations. DOH is working
8 in conjunction with the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST division and the Hawaii Criminal
9 Justice Date Center to implement a modern background check system to safeguard the frail, elderly and
10 vulnerable populations who are receiving care in or from Hawaii's healthcare facilities or organizations.
11 Private vendors are available to perform this service at little or no cost to the State. This bill will allow
12 the use of a designee. The department respectfully requests passage of this bill with the earliest possible
13 effective date.