

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Judiciary

### HB 2568, Relating to Background Checks

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

Thursday, February 9, 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 not cost to the state. This bill will allow
- 12 the use of a designee. The department respectfully requests passage of this bill.