



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 1, 2012

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Re: H.B. No. 2578 Relating to the Advisory Council for Community Services

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB2578 will eliminate the Advisory Council for Community Services—and will have no impact on the Office of Community Services (OCS) or the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

DLIR strongly supports this administration measure.

II. CURRENT LAW

OCS is mandated to constitute the Advisory Council for Community Services.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The department strongly supports this administration initiative to streamline OCS's processes. The entire Council has remained vacant for nearly a decade and currently no members have been appointed. To allow for public input OCS has increased participation by individual agency boards.

This measure will have no impact on the operations of the department or OCS and will have no fiscal impact as council members served uncompensated.



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February 1, 2012

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, House Committee on Labor

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Mila Kahaanui, Executive Director
Office of Community Services (OCS)
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Position: Strong Support

Re: HB2578 - Relating to the Advisory Council for Community Services

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The current proposal, HB2578, will eliminate the Advisory Council for Community Services originally envisioned for OCS and will have no impact on the operations of the office.

II. CURRENT LAW

Under current law, OCS is mandated to constitute such a council, however no such council has existed for nearly a decade.

III. HOUSE BILL

The Office of Community Services is charged, in part under HRS 371-K-1, to "improve the delivery of services to disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants." The chief mechanism by which to effectuate our efforts in OCS is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). This grant provides funding for many programs in each of our communities you may not be fully aware of.

This bill will eliminate the Advisory Council for Community Services originally envisioned for OCS and will have no impact on the operations of the office. This council was most likely brought into being to mirror the Federal requirements for a Community Action Agency. The provision in the CSBG Act, Public Law 105-285, regarding an Advisory Council is not applicable to the State of Hawaii in this case. In Hawaii, OCS acts as a distributing agency for funds, with a network of Community Action Agencies (CAA's) acting as the eligible entities. Therefore, there is no such need for the State to assemble or maintain such a council.

Although attempts were made to constitute such a council at the State level, none have been successful. Rather, OCS believes there is more than sufficient input provided by the special Board composition of our CAA's, who, by mission, service our mandated target population.

In addition, this bill conforms with our Governor's initiative to streamline government by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy such as defunct councils, commissions, or task forces.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.