

February 5, 2011

LATE Testimony

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

House Committee on Human Services

Re: HB 768- Supported Employment Empowerment Hawaii Work Program relating to Human Services

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 768, Supported Employment Empowerment Hawaii Work Program. I support this bill. I am at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Master's in Social Work Program. I have 5 years of work experience as a Supported Employment Specialist assisting individuals who are on welfare and benefits find and retain employment. My experiences from seeing a person seeking employment, receiving, and finally retaining a job is rewarding for the individual and provides self-sufficiency among individuals struggling to make ends meet. The program will also be of great value to future participating employer's who hire welfare recipients because it provides incentives. With the right support from the Department of Human Services and private service employment agencies it could benefit the State of Hawaii by providing the needed assistance to welfare recipients to becoming productive citizens.

Thank you for your support on Bill HB 768,

Lesley Shibata