

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



LATE

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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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February 3, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 912 – RELATING TO THE HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 912 is appropriate funds for a landlord liaison project with the funds to be expended by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not replace the priorities that Governor Abercrombie will be proposing in the Executive Biennium Budget for 2012-2013.

Although the bill places the program in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, the landlord liaison program has been administered for a number of years through the State Homeless Programs which is now with the Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division.

The landlord liaison program cultivates landlords willing to take a chance on renting to credit risky families. The program also teaches families to understand the terms of a lease agreement, how to budget wisely so as to make timely rent payments, and how to take care of the rental property. However, because the program is funded

with Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) allocations, participants are restricted to TANF-eligible families. Supplementary funding from the State would enable the contracted agencies to assist seniors, households without minor children and young adults. The program has been enormously successful in breaking the barrier of resistance in renting to Section-8 voucher holders and homeless families transitioning from a shelter to permanent housing.

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