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**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013**

**Committee on Human Services
Testimony in Support of H.B. 1298, HD1
Relating to Taxation**

**Thursday, March 14, 2013, 1:20 P.M.
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun-Oakland and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is in support of this bill. The unemployment rate of individuals with disabilities is far higher than the overall national average. The trend in the disability movement is towards full integrated employment of individuals with disabilities. This provides them with the self esteem and gratification that comes with being a full participating member of society. Additionally, it contributes to their economic self sufficiency, and makes them less dependent upon taxpayer funded assistance through the course of their lives. For that reason, we believe that whatever potential revenue shortfall is created by the tax benefit provided in this bill, it will more than be offset over the course of time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.