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LATE

February 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 285 SD 1 Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program**

Hearing: February 14, 2017, 9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to preserve access to health care for Medicaid recipients by extending the nursing facility sustainability fee program; appropriates funds out of the nursing facility sustainability program special fund for fiscal years 2017-2019; and extends exemptions from certain special fund fees.

This bill is nearly identical to the Administration's bill, SB 963. We express strong support for the bill as we have been implementing this program successfully for several years. We also support the amendment to have the nursing facility sustainability program go for two years instead of the originally proposed one year. This will help ensure continuity for both the nursing facilities as well as the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.