



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 891, S.D. 2, RELATING TO INCOME WITHHOLDING FOR CHILD SUPPORT.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 **TIME:** 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Lynette J. Lau, Administrator, Administrator, Child Support
Enforcement Agency

Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this administration bill.

The provisions of this bill amend sections 571-52.2 and 576E-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes in order to bring the State of Hawaii into compliance with federal law.

Under 42 U.S.C. §666(b)(6)(D), each state must have in effect laws requiring the imposition of a fine against any employer who: (a) discharges from employment, refuses to employ, or takes disciplinary action against any noncustodial parent subject to income withholding; or (b) fails to withhold support from income or pay the amounts to a child support agency.

Compliance with this requirement is necessary to maintain eligibility for federal welfare funding and federal funding of child support enforcement programs. In addition, amending the income withholding requirements increases the effectiveness of the income withholding process and protects the obligor parent from employment discrimination as a result of having an income withholding order being issued against the individual.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.