

HB-2204-HD-1

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2204 HD1** relating to Human Services; Welfare; and TANF.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **HB2204 HD1** and supports its passage.

HB2204 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Human Services to establish a task force to develop a restructured welfare payment system; re-establishes the exit and retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce; and appropriates funds.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient, and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so.

We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal opportunity in our communities." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 184185, 189-191 (2016)).

Given that **HB2204 HD1** requires the Department of Human Services to establish a task force to develop a restructured welfare payment system; re-establishes the exit and retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce; and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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