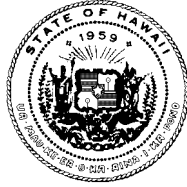


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January 27, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1664 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers the following comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to authorize the establishment of the Supporting Employment Empowerment Hawaii Work Program to transition public assistance recipients to the workforce.

Authorization through a statutory mandate is not required. DHS established the Supporting Employment Empowerment Hawaii Work Program (SEE) in 2006 through Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), as amended effective March 20, 2017. HAR §17-795, Supporting Employment Empowerment Program (SEE), may be accessed at:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HAR-17-795-Supporting-Employment-Empowerment-SEE-Program.pdf>.

The SEE Program continues to be a valuable tool for our TANF participants in establishing employment opportunities having placed 188 participants into subsidized employment placements through the network of 44 participating employers this past year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.