

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

June 20, 2003

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1647

Honorable Members
Twenty-Second Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1647, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Services for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired."

The purposes of this bill are to appropriate \$43,000 for fiscal year 2003-2004 to the Public Utilities Commission for a telephone reading system that provides individuals who are blind or visually impaired with toll-free statewide telephone access to time-sensitive information for one year, and to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to contract with a qualified private nonprofit organization to provide these services.

While I believe this project to be worthwhile, releasing these funds would mean spending money that we do not have.

The two-year budget recently passed by the Legislature is not balanced. The Legislature failed to include funding for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation for the second year of the biennium. Such action would make sense only if one assumed that all state hospitals would be shut down one year from now. Because this assumption is not realistic, the budget passed by the Legislature is not fiscally sound.

The challenge presented by this budget increased after the Legislature adjourned when the Council on Revenues on May 16 reduced the revenue projection for the current year and the upcoming biennium by \$186.7 million. The combined impact of

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
SENATE BILL NO. 1647
Page 2

lower revenue projections and unrealistic assumptions by the Legislature has resulted in a budget deficit of more than \$230 million.

The State must now make the hard choices to restrict spending and resist tax increases in order to create a healthy business climate that will lead to more and better-paying jobs and a quality standard of living for Hawaii's families. In short, we must begin to put our financial house back in order by doing all that we can to match recurring expenses with recurring revenues.

Decisions like the one to veto this bill are not easy, but they are necessary. Without fiscal discipline and prudent management of the budget now, it will be impossible to restore trust and integrity in government and expand and diversify the economy in the years ahead. This kind of tough decision is needed in order to achieve a true New Beginning for the people of Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1647 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, under Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Governor is required to give notice, by a proclamation, of the Governor's plan to return with the Governor's objections any bill presented to the Governor less than ten days before adjournment sine die or presented to the Governor after adjournment sine die of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1647, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Services for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired," passed by the Legislature, was presented to the Governor within the aforementioned period; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1647 is unacceptable to the Governor of the State of Hawaii;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawaii, do hereby issue this proclamation, pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, giving notice of my plan to return Senate Bill No. 1647 with my objections thereon to the Legislature as provided by said Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution.

DONE at the State Capitol, Honolulu,
State of Hawaii, this 20th day
of June, 2003.



LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii