## Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.



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February 1, 2009

Dear Representative Mizuno

A bill that moves the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor to Department of Human Services is being heard by your committee on Monday, February 2, 2009.

The Office of Community Services was established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It created Community Action Agencies throughout the country to help communities advocate for their needs. Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. one of the four Community Action Agencies in Hawaii and has been in existence since March 22, 1965.

MEO feels that this Office of Community Services should be moved to Department of Human Services. We serve the same people and the move would help collaborate and coordinate the services for the low-income people we both serve. In this time of economic downturn, this coordination and collaboration will assist those residents who are most in need.

Please support the Office of Community Services move to Department of Human Services. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lyn McNeff Chief Programs Officer

> NB 1087 Rec'd 2102109 8:40am

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