HB 1364

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE STATE OF HAWAII TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1364, H.D. 1

March 27, 2009

RELATING TO THE BUDGET

House Bill No. 1364, H.D. 1, amends Chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to require the Governor or the Director of Finance to report each restriction of appropriations to the Legislature no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter.

We are opposed to this bill. Administratively, it may be difficult to implement because of the number of decisions that may be made to restrict appropriations. The Executive Budget alone consists of over 250 programs and 500 appropriation accounts. Decisions may be made involving a single appropriation, one or more programs, or one or more departments. We currently provide information that is posted on our website and published in local newspapers regarding the release of funds from grants. In the past, we have provided copies of the approved Request for Allotment (Form A-19) to the respective money committees. The additional reporting required by this bill is unnecessary.