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P. O. Box 339 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 26, 2009

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

TO:

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

FROM:

Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT:

S.B. 1183,S.D. 1 - RELATING TO DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Hearing:

Thursday, February 26, 2009; 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1183 is to amend the definition of disability for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It amends and adds certain definitions to broaden protections against employment disability discrimination in the State.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for any effect this bill would have on labor laws. DHS would have a concern if this measure was intended to affect programs under chapter 346, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.