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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 16, 2009

LATE
Testimony

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1668, S.D. 2 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009; 8:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1668, S. D. 2, is to establish eligibility requirements for aged, blind, temporarily incapacitated, and disabled persons to receive public assistance.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully opposes this bill. Although we support the idea of possibly combining the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) program and the General Assistance (GA) program, due to fiscal constraints, it is not prudent to pursue this bill at this time. Further, combining these two programs is premature at this time because we do not have sufficient data about these recipients and their circumstances to make informed decisions about the suitable criteria for a combined program.

The Department has been and will continue to work closely with the Financial Assistance Advisory Committee (FAAC) toward a combined program but we need the opportunity to gather and analyze relevant data to develop a combined program. The Department hopes to submit a proposal, supported by the FAAC, during the 2010 Legislative Session which will ensure that the requirements for both the AABD and the GA programs are clearly defined, compatible, reasonable and sustainable in combining these two important programs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

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