

SB 774

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S. B. 774, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 774 S.D. 1 is to appropriate TANF funds for non-school-hour programs and introduces the Hawaii County Safe Haven demonstration project.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) must respectfully oppose this measure but is not in support of this measure as its implementation would adversely impacts the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The Department agrees that it is important to establish safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours. While the DHS appreciates the intent of this bill to provide non-school hour programs for youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade, the Department currently already provides a great deal of funding for non-school activities.

For example, DHS provides approximately \$6 million per year in TANF MOE State funds spent on A+ services in almost all public elementary schools (K-5 and in some cases also 6th grade) of the Department of Education (DOE) and approximately \$15 million per year in TANF Federal funds and TANF MOE State funds, spent on positive youth development programs in DOE middle and intermediate school campuses and elsewhere in our communities statewide providing services to Hawaii's children.

DHS is also funding through TANF Federal funds and TANF MOE State funds, many positive youth development programs via the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) that are also providing services during the non-school hours in various communities statewide to children attending middle or intermediate schools. The Department is also funding, with TANF Federal funds, the Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) Program, a non-school hour program, in fifteen (15) DOE middle/intermediate schools. The DHS is also funding non-school hour programs in Native Hawaiian Charter Schools.

The Department also has a concern that this bill has no provision to evaluate and inventory the existing non-school hour services to determine if there is a need to establish new services for various school-age categories in different local geographic communities.

The Department respectfully requests that should the Legislature appropriate TANF Federal funds for this bill, current TANF appropriation restrictions on pregnancy prevention and positive youth development services be increased to reflect this additional appropriation.

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

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