HB 2348 HD 2

Measure Title:	RELATING TO PERMANENT EXEMPT POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.
Report Title:	Department of Human Services; Management Positions; Civil Service Exemptions. (\$)
Description:	Restores the permanently exempt second deputy director position for the Department of Human Services. Establishes a secretary, community/project development director, and policy director positions. Exempts the community/project development director and policy director from civil service status. Appropriates funds for the newly established positions. (HB2348 HD2)
Companion:	<u>SB2877</u>
Package:	Governor
Current Referral:	HMS/JDL, WAM
Introducer(s):	SOUKI (Introduced by request of another party)



Senate Committee on Human Services The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair The Hon. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor The Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair The Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2348 <u>Relating to Permanent Exempt Positions in the Dept of Human Services</u> Submitted by Dustin Stevens, Public Affairs and Policy Director March 21, 2016, 8:45 am, Room 016

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2348, restoring a second deputy director position to the Department of Human Services (DHS) as well as establishing other non-exempt positions.

As it currently stands, DHS has the largest operating budget of any state department, in total more than \$3B. In addition, they oversee the fifth largest staff of any department, with over 2,000 employees.

Cumulatively, these resources are used to provide a host of vital services to impoverished and underserved populations in Hawaii. In addition to administering the state Medicaid program, they also provide financial assistance, job training and placement, housing services, and aid for vulnerable children and adults.

As such, the positions listed in House Bill 2348 are extremely necessary and should be reinstated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.