



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2739, Relating to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Purpose: Establishes the temporary TANF benefits and coverage task force to look into the problems faced by the State in administering the TANF benefits program, see how other states cover the costs of providing TANF benefits, and develop a working plan of services that TANF recipients may be required to perform for benefits. Directs the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) to assist the temporary task force by providing a facilitator.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on the merits of this bill but requests a change to the part that affects Judiciary resources.

The Judiciary supports the use of facilitation services to assist a temporary TANF benefits and coverage task force. However, the Judiciary is concerned that specifying the utilization of CADR's facilitation services in Section 1 may be too restrictive given recent budget cuts, and CADR's limited resources may not be available due to other commitments. Therefore, the Judiciary recommends the language on page 1, lines 4–5 be changed to: "The center for alternative dispute resolution is requested to assist the temporary task force by providing a facilitator."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2739.