



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 1776 HD1 SD1 CD1

On July 15, 2009, House Bill No. 1776, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Assistance" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this measure is to prevent inmates from receiving public assistance by: (1) requiring the Department of Public Safety to provide a complete list of all inmates in its custody to the Department of Human Services no later than December 31, 2009, and beginning January 31, 2010, to provide the Department of Human Services with monthly reports listing newly admitted inmates; and (2) requiring the Department of Human Services to identify the status of each inmate on the monthly list with respect to the inmate's current receipt of public assistance. State law presently prohibits inmates from receiving public assistance.

Although I support the policy of screening inmates for public assistance, this task might have been more easily accomplished through a Memorandum of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Human Services. Legislation was unnecessary and interferes with the flexibility of each department to manage its internal affairs and adjust to changing circumstances.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 1776 to become law as Act 188, effective July 15, 2009, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE