

April 28, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am allowing the following measure to become law on April 28, 2005, without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

HB 1305, HD1 A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EQUAL PAY.
(ACT 35)

As my Administration has pointed out, this bill is unnecessary. It simply reiterates policies in current federal laws including the Federal Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Furthermore, Hawaii law currently addresses waged-based discrimination under our Wage and Hour statutes and the Hawaii Discriminatory Practice Law. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission is already responsible for handling cases brought under these statutes.

This bill establishes a task force on this topic, but fails to appropriate funds or staff for the task force. Additionally the scope of the task force's responsibilities is ambiguous and subject to various interpretations.

On balance, the bill does no good, but does no real harm. It is only a symbolic gesture by the Legislature. As such I will allow this measure to go into law without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE