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A non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities

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The Hon. Gov. Linda Lingle
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorable Gov. Lingle,

SB1183, CD1, Relating to Discriminatory Practices, appears on your list of potential vetoes issued Tuesday, June 30.

Your message of intent to veto reads as follows: "Unnecessarily requires the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission to adopt administrative rules by the end of the year to change certain definitions related to the Americans with Disabilities Act when they already have the authority to do so. Further, there is no federal requirement to change these definitions at the state level at this time." This is not particularly satisfying. Hawai'i state law has long afforded greater protection against discrimination than Federal law. We see no reason that such additional protection should not extend to Hawai'i residents with disabilities, especially considering their unemployment rate is somewhere above 60 percent.

SB1183 would help protect the many Hawai'i residents with disabilities from discrimination in employment. I urge you not to veto SB1183.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark F. Romoser".

Mark F. Romoser
Policy and Program Analyst
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
Honolulu, HI