

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1273

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2007

RE: H.B. No. 928
H.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 928, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to expand the federal Section 8 Homeownership Option Program and the federal Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program, and to exempt Family Self-Sufficiency Escrow Accounts from the asset test for public assistance.

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development submitted testimony in support of this measure. The Department of Human Services and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority submitted testimony in support of the intent of this measure.

Your Committee finds that economic stability does not arise solely from income. Financial assets, such as cash savings and home equity, are a critical component of economic security. Financial assets offer individuals a viable and hopeful future, stimulate development of human and other capital, and enhance the welfare of children.

The federal Section 8 Homeownership Option Program and the federal Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program provide unique opportunities for low- and moderate-income earners to save and pay for homeownership. The Section 8 Homeownership Option Program provides continued monthly homeownership assistance

2007-2269 SSCR SMA.doc



payments to qualified Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program participants to help reduce their monthly mortgage payments, as well as, pay for other monthly homeownership expenses in lieu of rental payments.

The Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program provides funds to public housing agencies to hire coordinators to help participating families set a plan for employment, education, and possibly homeownership. A baseline rent is established in the first year. As a family's income increases, the family continues to pay a percentage of its income toward rent, and the difference between its new rental payment and its baseline rent is deposited into an escrow account that can be applied towards the goals in the plan.

Your Committee further finds that this measure will help increase low- and moderate-income families' homeownership in Hawaii.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 928, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services and
Public Housing,


SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 928 HDI	Committee Referral: HSP, NAM	Date: 3/13/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)				✓
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	3	-	-	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>N Sakamoto</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes