

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2365

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2044  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and  
Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred S.B. No. 2044 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAREGIVERS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the temporary  
disability insurance law to permit an eligible employee to collect  
up to four weeks of temporary disability insurance benefit  
payments to care for a family member with a serious health  
condition.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Policy Advisory Board of Elder Affairs; Maui County  
Executive on Aging; Hawaii Government Employees Association;  
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996; Hawaii Aging  
Advocates Coalition; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; ILWU  
Local 142; and one individual. Testimony in opposition was  
received from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,  
National Federation of Independent Business, and The Chamber of  
Commerce of Hawaii.

A recent report to the Legislature indicates that temporary  
disability insurance is one means to provide financial relief for  
caregivers. Your Committees believe that other means should be  
explored during the interim before statutory amendments are  
implemented to address such a wide ranging issue.



Act 204, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, mandated the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving, created by Act 285, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, to explore, among other things, alternative means of providing financial support for family caregivers in Hawaii. Pursuant thereto, the *State of Hawai'i Family Caregiver Needs Assessment* was prepared by a private contractor for the joint legislative committee. The assessment stated, in relevant part:

- (1) It is estimated that 9 per cent of caregivers in the United States quit their jobs to provide care;
- (2) Caregiving affected employment of one-quarter of caregivers, mainly in reduced work hours or taking leaves of absence;
- (3) A state income tax credit for caregivers has the greatest support among caregivers;
- (4) Although caregivers are doing well overall in their ability to provide care, there are certain impacts on physical and mental health, finances, and employment, for up to thirty per cent of all caregivers; and
- (5) Caregivers tend to have lower income than expected, especially given the high cost of living in Hawaii.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting a provision to follow-up on the findings of the *Family Caregiver Needs Assessment* by convening a working group to explore various funding mechanisms that could potentially support caregivers.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and Judiciary and Labor that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2044, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2044, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Human Services  
and Public Housing and  
Judiciary and Labor,

  
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair

  
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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2044	HSP/JDL,WAM	2/5/08

The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312     Pass, with amendments 2311     Hold 2310     Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2

Recommendation:  Adopted     Not Adopted


Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

Distribution:    Original    Yellow    Pink    Goldenrod  
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**JDL**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2044	HSP/JDL, WAM	2-8-08		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TANIGUCHI, BRIAN T. (C)	✓			
HEE, Clayton (VC)				✓
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
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