

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1013

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2007

RE: S.B. No. 424
S.D. 2

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 S.B. No. 424, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to expand the Bridge to Hope program to enable heads of households who are receiving financial assistance and who are participating in the First-to-Work programs to pursue educational activities beyond the new two-year federal limit.

The University of Hawai'i System; the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; Hawai'i Bridge to Hope; the National Association of Social Workers; Hawaii Women Work; American Association of University Women, Windward Branch; and twenty-three individuals, many of whom are current and former participants in the Bridge to Hope program, submitted testimony in support of this measure. The Department of Human Services submitted written comments.

Your Committee finds that recent changes to the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program rules and subsequent changes to the First-To-Work programs limit educational activities to two years of study leading to vocational or technical degrees in order to meet federal work requirements. The federal law has a grandfather provision for current student participants that allows them to finish their education. However, new participants would be prohibited from pursuing baccalaureate

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education. Your Committee recognizes the significant impact that access to post-secondary education can have on economic self-sufficiency. A full range of educational activities maximizes participants' current benefits and increases their long-term ability to support themselves and their families.

According to the Department of Human Services' testimony, it is a requirement of the Bridge to Hope program that participants attend school on a full-time basis.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adding language to ensure that the participants are attending school on a full-time basis as defined by the post-secondary educational institution that they are attending.

It is your Committee's intent to enable new First-To-Work participants to continue their educational activities beyond the two-year federal limit by transferring them to the state-funded Bridge to Hope program.

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 S.B. No. 424, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 424, S.D. 2.


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.:* SB424, SD1	Committee Referral: HSP	Date: 3/1/07		
<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 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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes