

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 136

Honolulu, Hawaii
Feb 10, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 600

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 600 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to reduce fraud committed in connection with the receipt of public assistance benefits from the Department of Human Services:

More specifically, the measure:

- (1) Establishes a program to reward individuals who report persons who have committed fraud in obtaining assistance from certain Department of Human Services programs;
- (2) Increases the penalties for committing fraud while receiving public assistance; and
- (3) Appropriates funds for the reward program.

Under present law, there is no program to encourage individuals to report fraudulent acts committed by persons receiving assistance from the Department of Human Services. This bill establishes a program to issue monetary awards when a person is convicted and ordered to make restitution to the State.

Current law also provides that an individual who wilfully fails to report a reduced need for public assistance is guilty of



a petty misdemeanor. This bill increases the penalty by making that conduct a misdemeanor, provided that a recipient who fraudulently obtains more than \$300 in public assistance is guilty of a class C felony, and a recipient who fraudulently obtains more than \$20,000 is guilty of a class B felony.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 600 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,


JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



