

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

806

Honolulu, Hawaii

March , 2009

RE: H.B. No. 697

H.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 697
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEMPORARY HEALTH INSURANCE FOR
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that individuals who
lose their employer-based health insurance due to the effects of
the current economic downturn are provided a safety net for their
health care coverage. This bill:

- (1) Establishes the Temporary Health Insurance for
Unemployed Persons Program (Program) which offers
similar health benefits provided by the QUEST-Net
Program;
- (2) Partially reimburses individuals who continue their
health insurance coverage through the Consolidated
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA); and
- (3) Appropriates funds to administer the Program as well as
to reimburse individuals enrolled in COBRA health care
coverage under COBRA.




The Hawaii Medical Service Association, ILWU Local 142, and UNITE HERE! Local 5 testified in support of this bill. The Department of Human Services testified in opposition to this measure.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation amount for the administration of the Program to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the appropriation amount for the reimbursement of individuals enrolled in COBRA to an unspecified amount;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2020, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 697, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 697, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,


MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



