

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1238

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 27, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 1205
S.D. 2
H.D. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred S.B. No. 1205, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, 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 assist unemployed and underemployed persons in maintaining their health insurance coverage by establishing a Temporary Health Insurance for Unemployed and Underemployed Persons Program (Program) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide temporary health care coverage for persons who have lost health insurance coverage due to lost employment or a reduction in hours.

DHS testified in opposition to this bill.

Hawaii, along with the rest of the nation, is currently facing a declining economy, with some of the worst economic conditions being experienced since World War II. This economic downturn has resulted in significant numbers of employees facing furloughs, layoffs, reduced work hours, and terminations. Certain economic factors, including unemployment, are experiencing numbers that have not been seen in decades. With unemployment rates and reduced working hours only expected to increase in the near future, an additional concern for many individuals is the loss of health insurance benefits. This concern is not only for the

SB1205 HD2 HSCR LAB HMS 2009-3349



employee themselves but also for family members who are covered by an employee's insurance policy, especially those who may need medical attention. The increased numbers of medically uninsured individuals could also have a significant negative impact on our overall economy. By establishing the Program to assist these individuals in maintaining health care insurance, not only is the burden for employees lessened but the impacts on our overall economic health are decreased as well.

Although no testimony was received in support of this measure, your Committee feels that the importance of this matter warrants further discussion and consideration.

Your Committee has amended this bill by changing its effective date from July 1, 2090, to upon its approval.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1205, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1205, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor & Public
Employment,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fifth Legislature

HSCR 1238

Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 1205, SD2, HD1	Committee Referral: HLT, LAB, FIN	Date: 3/24/09		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
2. YAMASHITA, Kyle T. (VC)				✓
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
4. AWANA, Karen Leinani	✓			
5. HANOHANO, Faye P.	✓			
6. KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
7. LEE, Marilyn B.				✓
8. NAKASHIMA, Mark M.	✓			
9. SAIKI, Scott K.	✓			
10. SOUKI, Joseph M.				✓
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
12. PINE, Kymberly Marcos	✓			
TOTAL (12)	9			3
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. _____ committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				