

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1008

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 19, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 809  
S.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 Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 809, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a task force to advise the Legislature and state government on how best to coordinate efficient use of limited public and private resources to assist homeless children.

The measure also establishes the Kokua Na Keiki Special Fund to finance a homeless coordinator position and a support staff position to assist the coordinator, and to fund grants for innovation projects for homeless children. Expenditure from the Fund is contingent upon the availability of federal funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the intent of this measure from the State Procurement Office. The Department of Human Services opposed this measure. The Department of Budget and Finance submitted comments on the measure.

Your Committee finds that homelessness can be devastating to children, especially young children. While many children develop a degree of resiliency to their situation and are able to overcome the difficulties of living without a home, homeless children often suffer from poor health, exposure to violence, poor academic performance, and a lack of positive social interaction.

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Your Committee finds that this Act is intended to address the adverse effects of homelessness on children.

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 S.B. No. 809, S.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

  
JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



