

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 959

Honolulu, Hawaii
March , 2009

RE: H.B. No. 1098
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 Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 1098, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSISTANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to provide the maximum amount of assistance to people in recovery or transition periods in a fiscally responsible manner by:

- (1) Placing a 24-month limit on general assistance (GA) to households without minor dependents;
- (2) Stipulating that assistance received pending an eligibility determination for the federal Supplemental Security Income Program or successor program is not counted toward the 24-month limit;
- (3) Requiring the Department of Human Services to refer GA recipients to the Aged, Blind, and Permanently and Totally Disabled program after 12 months or upon the recipient turning 65 years old; and
- (4) Converting GA from a block grant into an entitlement program.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii provided comments.



Your Committee has amended this bill by changing the effective date to July 1, 2020, to encourage further discussion.

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. 1098, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1098, H.D. 2.

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



MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



