

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2013

RE: H.B. No. 1375  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 1375 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a task force that shall develop a restructured welfare payment system; and
- (2) Re-establish and fund the exit and retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawaii Bridge to Hope, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that people living below the poverty line are especially hard hit in Hawaii. A family of four in Hawaii pays sixty-one percent more for food than families on the mainland. The cost for housing in Hawaii is also the highest in the nation. Seventy-five percent of people at or below the poverty line spend more than fifty percent of their income on housing. There is a need for government policies to support this group in escaping poverty.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have established a task force to develop a restructured welfare payment system;
- (2) Inserting language that requests the Financial Assistance Advisory Council to assist the Department of Human Services in proposing recommendations to restructure the welfare payment system and report any findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session;
- (3) Deleting language that would have re-established and funded the exit and retention bonus program; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 1375, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1375, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 1375</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HMS, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/4/13</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
SLOM, Sam				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes