

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07 2013

RE: S.B. No. 1100

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 S.B. No. 1100 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow the Department of Human Services to draw from other funds appropriated to the Department to make general assistance benefits payments.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that general assistance is a program that provides financial assistance to disabled adults without children. The limited assistance that the program provides can be critical to helping a disabled adult maintain housing or get access to basic necessities. General assistance also provides a critical bridge for disabled adults who are seeking Social Security disability assistance. Upon award of Social Security assistance, the State is repaid for the general assistance paid to the disabled adult.

Your Committee further finds that because general assistance is a block grant, assistance levels are determined based on the number of people in the community needing assistance. As these numbers rise, the assistance amount is reduced. The amount set for this year was \$319 per month; however, it will be reduced to



\$298 per month effective February 1, 2013, because of the caseload. The general assistance program is the safety net for many individuals. Without it, far more people would be facing homelessness without critical assistance to get themselves back on their feet.

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. 1100 and recommends that it pass Second Reading 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

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1100	HMS, WAM	2/5/13		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input 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				/
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes