

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2013

RE: S.B. No. 1099  
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 S.B. No. 1099 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELIMINATING THE ASSET LIMIT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to eliminate the asset limit for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services; Office of Community Services; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; University of Hawaii Bridge to Hope; Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development; Legal Aid Society of Hawaii; Hawaii Women's Coalition; Community Alliance for Mental Health; Goodwill Industries of Hawaii; American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii; American Association of University Women, Windward Branch; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that asset limitations for public benefit programs have discouraged low-income families from accumulating assets that allow them to successfully transition from poverty to self-sufficiency. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program has a work requirement and promotes self-reliance, responsibility, and family stability. The federal government gives states the flexibility to raise or eliminate



their asset tests for most applicants. Eliminating the asset limit would encourage families to build assets and establish a safety net so they can continue to work toward self-sufficiency and prevent their reliance on public benefit assistance programs.

Your Committee further finds that there has been significant national discourse regarding asset limits for public benefit assistance recipients, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development has recommended eliminating the asset test. Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia have completely eliminated asset tests for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients. Research shows that most applicants to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs have very few assets, and in other states, eliminating asset tests greatly simplifies program administration without significantly increasing caseloads.

Your Committee has amended this measure by 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 S.B. No. 1099, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1099, 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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1099	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 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>	3	0	1	1
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