

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

519

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2013

RE: S.B. No. 1100
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 Ways and Means, 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 authorize the Department of Human Services to draw from other funds appropriated to the Department to maintain the level of General Assistance benefits payments set at the beginning of each fiscal year for the entire fiscal year.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the General Assistance Program of the Department of Human Services provides financial assistance to disabled individuals without minor dependents. Because the General Assistance Program is a block grant program involving a fixed amount, assistance levels are determined at the beginning of the fiscal year based on the number of people in the community who require assistance. If the number of General Assistance recipients rises, the amount of assistance per recipient must be reduced.

Your Committee also finds that, in fiscal year 2011-2012, an increase in the Department's General Assistance caseload necessitated an emergency appropriation by the Legislature to

SB1100 SD1 SSCR LRB 13-1535.doc



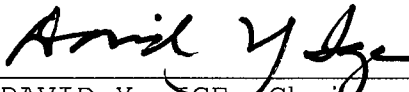
prevent a severe reduction in the benefit payment amount afforded to program recipients. In the current fiscal year, a projected rise in the General Assistance caseload has already prompted a reduction in the benefit payment amount. Your Committee further finds that this measure will permit the Department of Human Services to utilize savings from other programs, when necessary, to stabilize payment levels and eliminate the need to request emergency appropriations.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1100, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1100, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,



DAVID Y. ICE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1100	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 2-14-13		
<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
IGE, David Y. (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
KAHELE, Gilbert	/			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	/			
KOUCHI, Ronald D.	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
THIELEN, Laura H.	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N.				✓
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes