

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2072

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2840

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2840 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 in the event the general assistance appropriation is insufficient to maintain general assistance benefits payments.

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

Your Committee finds that it is important for the Department to have the flexibility to transfer surplus funds between various programs to ensure that the general assistance program sustains adequate funding. Your Committee further finds that the general assistance program is the primary source of temporary cash assistance for individuals in Hawaii who have suffered a temporary illness or injury that prevents them from working, or who have permanent disabilities and are awaiting permanent federal disability benefits. The general assistance program is a block grant program and, therefore, the maximum allowance a recipient can receive depends on the amount appropriated by the Legislature and the number of general assistance recipients.



In previous years, the monthly general assistance allowance has dropped as low as \$234 due to high caseloads and insufficient funding. Consequently, the Department has had to request emergency appropriations. This measure provides more stability and more reasonable monthly allocations for individuals who need temporary assistance by allowing the Department to transfer surplus funds from other programs to the general assistance program. This measure requires the Department to be transparent regarding the use of its appropriations by submitting to the Legislature a report detailing the funds and calculations used.

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. 2840 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, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2840</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HMS, WAM</b>	Date: <b>1/30/14</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 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				/
<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