

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2015

RE: S.B. No. 1159
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 1159 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt federal veterans' disability benefits from claims of creditors and attachment, levy, and seizure to enforce a court judgment; and
- (2) Provide an exception for service-connected disability benefits that are subject to child and spousal support enforcement under title 42 United States Code section 659(h) (1) (A) (ii) (V).

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Office of Veterans Services, National Association for Uniformed Services Hawaii Chapter, Veterans Advisory Board, and one individual.

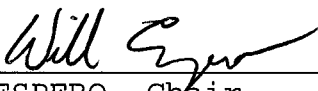
Your Committee finds that disabled veterans have sacrificed in the name of duty, honor, and country. The federal benefits that a disabled veteran receives need to be protected from creditors and third parties. Implementation of this measure safeguards federal veterans' disability benefits, except for in certain child and spousal support cases.



Your Committee has amended this measure by adding language to encourage courts to follow federal disability compensation apportionment policy under title 42 United States Code section 659(h) (1) (A) (ii) (V), regarding portions of service-connected disability benefits that are subject to child and spousal support enforcement.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1159, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1159, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs,

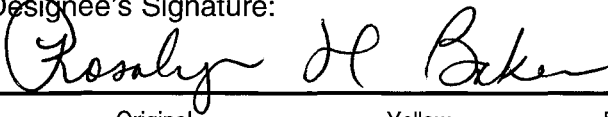


WILL ESPERO, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* 8B 1159	Committee Referral: PSM, JDL	Date: 2-12-15		
<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
ESPERO, Will (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
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