

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2019

RE: S.B. No. 330

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 330 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN EARNED INCOME DISREGARD PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services to:

- (1) Implement an earned income disregard program as an intermediate step to implementing a full Medicaid buy-in program; and
- (2) Submit reports to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that Act 200, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, established a joint legislative Medicaid Buy-In Task Force (Task Force) to explore the possibility of implementing a Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities who are either not working or currently working but would like to earn more income. The Task Force has been working to implement the Medicaid

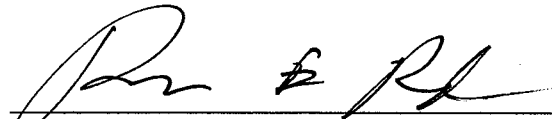


buy-in program, but lack of funding has prevented its implementation.

Your Committee further finds that the Task Force recommended an interim step to a Medicaid buy-in program, to allow individuals with disabilities to earn income and not lose their Medicaid benefits, which they would be at risk of given the current Medicaid eligibility rules. While this interim program would not provide the full benefits of a Medicaid buy-in program, it would increase the amount of income an individual could earn while retaining Medicaid eligibility, encourage the employment of individuals with disabilities, and enable current Medicaid beneficiaries to become more self-sufficient.

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. 330 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,



RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

| | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 330 | Committee Referral: HMS, WAM | Date: 2/1/19 | | |
| <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 |
| RUDERMAN, Russell E. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| RHOADS, Karl (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| IHARA, Jr., Les | ✓ | | | |
| RIVIERE, Gil | ✓ | | | |
| FEVELLA, Kurt | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i> | | | | |
| Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes