

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3909

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 8 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1787
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1787, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish "Employment First", defined as the competitive employment and full inclusion of persons with a disability in an integrated setting as a first and preferred option for employment services--as a policy of the State and counties;
- (2) Require state and county agencies to implement this policy in hiring practices and all programs and services administered or funded by the State or counties; and
- (3) Require the Department of Human Services to apply Employment First principles to Medicaid home and community-based services programs.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Aging, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Communication Access



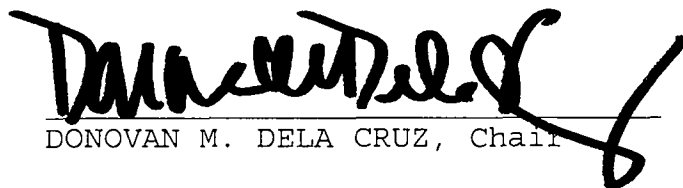
Board, and one individual. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committees find that per the United States Department of Labor, the workforce participation rate for individuals with disabilities is about one-third of that of people without disabilities. The low employment rate for people has been increasingly recognized as a serious societal issue, with over thirteen million adults of working age in the United States receiving disability benefits from Social Security. Yet, it has been continuously shown that with assistance, accommodations, and encouragement, many more people with disabilities can work successfully in the community. Employment First is based on the framework that provides persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities gainful employment, fair wages and benefits, and the dignity that arises from an integrated and competitive employment. This measure will establish Employment First in the State, which will help eliminate the many barriers to employment for persons with disabilities, including workplace barriers.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1787, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1787, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Ways and Means,

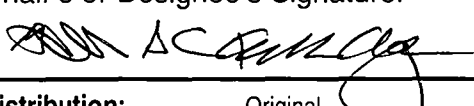

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1787, HD2, SD1	HMS/LCA, JDC/WAM	4/5/22		
<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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.				X
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	10			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