

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2272

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2399

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 2399 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENTAL DISCRIMINATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit discrimination in rental transactions based on participation in any government rental assistance program, including low-income housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (Section 8).

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, Pono Hawai'i Initiative, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Partners in Care Oahu, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Association of REALTORS and one individual.

Your Committee finds there is an overwhelming need to assist low-income families in our communities. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is one of the federal government's major programs for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Unfortunately, however, many landlords are



reluctant to rent to individuals who receive housing assistance due to negative stereotypes or stigmas. Honolulu remains one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States that does not have state or local discrimination prohibitions in place to protect families utilizing rental assistance programs. Accordingly, this measure will help enable households receiving housing assistance to apply for rentals and be evaluated on the same tenancy qualifications as other applicants instead of being judged only on their participation in an assistance program.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2399 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Commerce and  
Consumer Protection,



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ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**CPN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2399	CPN, JDC	2-2-2022

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312     
 Pass, with amendments 2311     
 Hold 2310     
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	/			
DECOITE, Lynn	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	7			

Recommendation:     
 Adopted     
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  
*Clarence K. Nishihara*

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes