

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2460**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2708

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.B. No. 2708 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the definition of "employee-beneficiary" with regard to the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund to include the surviving unmarried adult child of a deceased retired member, provided that the unmarried adult child is incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical incapacity that existed prior to the child reaching the age of nineteen.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

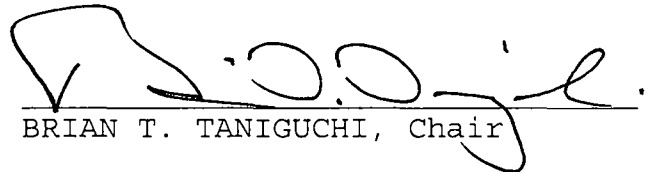
Your Committee finds that many individuals who are incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical incapacity are enrolled in health plans offered by the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund as a dependent-child of a retired member. Your Committee also finds that these dependents have limited income, if any, and do not have other opportunities to receive similar benefits. Your Committee further finds that



existing law governing the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund does not provide survivor benefit coverage, and therefore, these adult children lose their health benefits when the retiree and the retiree's spouse are no longer living or eligible for benefits from the health benefits trust fund. According to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, over the past five years, there was on average, four such children per year who lost coverage due to the passing of their last eligible parent. Your Committee finds that this measure will provide continued health benefit coverage to surviving children with mental or physical incapacity when the retiree and the retiree's spouse are no longer living or eligible.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2708 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 Labor, Culture and
the Arts,




BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
LCA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2708	LCA, WAM	1/28/2022
<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	
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓	
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓	
CHANG, Stanley	✓	
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓	
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓	
TOTAL	5	0
0	0	0
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