

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1150

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 2025

RE: H.B. No. 212
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 212, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to establish a permanent Return-to-Home Program to return homeless individuals in the State to families and relatives in their home states.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions; Office of the Public Defender; Office of Housing and Community Development of the County of Hawai'i; The Institute for Human Services, Inc.; Waikiki Neighborhood Board; and six individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the State Council on Mental Health.

Your Committee finds that the Return-to-Home Pilot Program established by Act 94, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, has been a success, sending over one hundred homeless individuals back to their home states in the State's partnership with The Institute for Human Services, Inc. Your Committee further finds that with only \$50,000 in funding per year, the Return-to-Home Pilot Program



has sent one hundred thirty-seven out-of-state homeless individuals back to their families on the mainland, saving the State's taxpayers an estimated \$11.2 million. Your Committee notes that the Return-to-Home Pilot Program sunsets on January 1, 2026. By expanding the Return-to-Home Pilot Program into a permanent, statewide initiative with proper funding, this measure ensures that more individuals have the opportunity to return home, where they can access the help and community they need to overcome the challenges of homelessness.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 212, H.D. 2, 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 Health and Human
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 212, HD2	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 3/12/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.				✓
KEOHOKAOLE, Jarrett				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes