

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1191

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 2025

RE: H.B. No. 244
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

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. 244, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Department of Human Services to collaborate with contracted community-based organizations to address the need for social services in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Parents and Children Together; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Community Alliance on Prisons; Hawai'i Youth Services Network; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Child & Family Service; Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center; Hawai'i Food Bank; AlohaCare; Kumukahi Health + Wellness; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition; Easterseals Hawaii; Hale Kipa, Inc.; YWCA of Kaua'i; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Hawai'i True Cost Coalition; Aloha United Way; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Epic 'Ohana; Goodwill Hawaii; Lanakila Pacific; The Institute for Human Services, Inc.; The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.; Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; Partners Development Foundation; Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii; Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii; Spirit Horse Ranch; Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit



Organizations; YMCA of Honolulu; Share Your Mana; Adult Friends for Youth; Hawai'i Community Foundation; and ten individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

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

Your Committee finds that community-based organizations are vital partners in delivering critical services on behalf of the Department of Human Services, and by strengthening collaborations with service providers, the Department of Human Services can enhance program delivery and improve access to essential services, such as administering benefits, providing work-training and employment support, strengthening child care programs, addressing homelessness, and reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system, for individuals in need. Your Committee further finds that the Department of Human Services contracts with community-based organizations to provide critical services, but contract rates have not increased for many years and fail to cover full program costs. Your Committee acknowledges that if the gap between funding levels and demand for services is not mitigated by increased state funding, community-based organizations will have to decline contracts or reduce the amount of services provided, despite the community need. This measure provides funding for the Department of Human Services to continue to collaborate with contracted community-based organizations to improve access to benefits, childcare, workforce training, and homelessness services while promoting stability and well-being in the State's communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 244, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 244, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, 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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 244, HD1	HHS, WAM	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; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓	
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓	
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.		
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett		
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓	
TOTAL	3	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution: 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