

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

539

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 477
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 477
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAW,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Repeal the statutory definitions of "registered for work" or "registration for work";
- (2) Repeal the statutory requirement to post work availability online;
- (3) Amend eligibility qualifications for certain unemployment benefits;
- (4) Beginning April 1, 2027, permit electronic notification of determinations or redeterminations of unemployment claims; and
- (5) Remove language that limits an individual's ability to change a previously elected withholding status only once during a benefit year.

2025-1713 HB477 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Your Committee finds that the State's unemployment system as it relates to certain requirements is inefficient and limiting for individuals who are already facing difficult circumstances. Your Committee also finds that modernizing the system can greatly improve the communication between the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and unemployed individuals who are using the system for unemployment benefits. Your Committee believes that this measure supports unemployed individuals by expanding the qualifications to receive certain unemployment benefits and improves the system including electronic methods of notification.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Retaining the statutory definitions of "registered for work" or "registration for work";
- (2) Repealing the statutory provision which allows employers to combine accounts to be constituted as a single employer's account as it relates to contribution rates;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 477, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 477, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor,



JACKSON D. SARAMA, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 477	Committee Referral: LAB, FIN	Date: 2/11/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (C)	X			
2. LEE, Mike (VC)	X			
3. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	X			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	X			
5. KONG, Sam Satoru	X			
6. REYES ODA, Julie	X			
TOTAL (6)	6			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> committee acronym(s) </div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				