

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 2025

RE: H.B. No. 477
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 Labor and Technology, to which was referred
H.B. No. 477, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to modernize the
State's unemployment insurance system by:

- (1) Repealing the requirement to post work availability
online;
- (2) Amending the qualifications for unemployed individuals
who are able to receive certain unemployment benefits;
- (3) Beginning April 1, 2027, permitting electronic
notification of determinations or redeterminations of
unemployment claims; and
- (4) Removing language that limited an individual's ability
to change a previously elected withholding status to
once during a benefit year.

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



International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50.

Your Committee finds that the State's unemployment insurance system is outdated and often unnecessarily complicated for users. An accessible, efficient unemployment insurance system is critical to the State's social welfare. This measure modernizes the system and improves services for individuals by streamlining the work registration process, updating the electronic communication processes, and allowing claimants to change their tax withholdings multiple times in a benefit year. These changes improve the existing system and lay the foundation for a future modernized system with features such as auto-registration for work.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language amending the definition of "registered for work" or "registration for work" in section 383-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by:
 - (A) Requiring individuals to provide information to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, rather than the employment office, to facilitate work search efforts by the individual and increase job referrals by the employment office; and
 - (B) Repealing the requirement that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations post the information provided by the individual, including the individual's name, job skills, education, training, prior employment history and work duties, preferred working conditions, occupational license, and other relevant occupational information on the Department's internet job-matching system;
- (2) Restoring language in section 383-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, referencing the definition of "registered for work" in section 383-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and



- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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

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


HENRY J. AQUINO, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor and Technology
LBT

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>HB 477, HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>LBT, WAM/JDC</i>	Date: <i>3/12/25</i>										
<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)	Nay	Excused								
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	x											
LEE, Chris (VC)	x											
IHARA, Jr., Les	x											
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.				x								
FEVELLA, Kurt	x											
TOTAL	4			1								
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: right; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>												
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Distribution:</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Original</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Yellow</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Pink</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>File with Committee Report</td> <td>Clerk's Office</td> <td>Drafting Agency</td> </tr> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 25%;">Goldenrod</div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 25%;">Committee File Copy</div> </div>					Distribution:	Original	Yellow	Pink		File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes