

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1040
S.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 Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 1040, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require and appropriate moneys for the Office of Wellness and Resilience to develop, implement, and administer a Medical Debt Acquisition and Forgiveness program to acquire and forgive medical debt owed by certain households in the State.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of Wellness and Resilience in the Office of the Governor; Healthcare Association of Hawaii; Hawaii Public Health Institute; The Queen's Health Systems; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Holomua Collaborative; Holomua Collaborative on behalf of the Hawaii Community Foundation, Title Guaranty, Mana Up, Hawaii Gas, and Tori Richard; Democratic Party of Hawaii Education Caucus, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the burden of carrying significant medical debt can be detrimental to a person's mental and physical health. Your Committee believes that the medical debt forgiveness program established by this measure will help provide economic



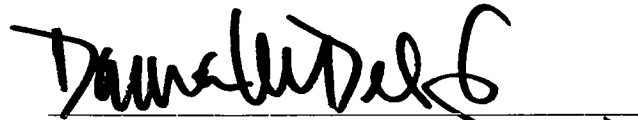
relief to families that are struggling under the weight of rising health care costs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Codifying section 2 of the measure in Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to make the Medical Debt Acquisition and Forgiveness program permanent; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive edits for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1040, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1040, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB1040 SBI</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HHS/CPN, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2-19-2025</div>		
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <input style="margin-right: 10px;" type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____ </div>				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	13	0	0	0
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div> </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Distribution: Original File with Committee Report </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Yellow Clerk's Office </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Pink Drafting Agency </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes