STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1415

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

MAR 2 1

RE: S.B. No. 479 S.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 Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 479, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Amend the funding sources of the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund;
- (2) Repeal the Director of Finance's discretionary authority to use monies in the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund under certain circumstances;
- (3) Authorize the Director of Finance to expend monies in the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund to provide incentive payments to ABLE account owners; and
- (4) Appropriate funds for incentive payments and a full-time position to support the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Aging; Disability and Communication Access Board; State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Special

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Education Advisory Council; one member of the Kaua'i County Council; Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; Easterseals Hawaii; and six individuals.

Your Committee finds that ABLE savings accounts provide individuals with disabilities the same types of flexible savings accounts that people without disabilities have, such as college savings accounts, health savings accounts, and individual retirement accounts, and give these individuals the ability to accrue savings to pay for a variety of expenses.

Your Committee further finds that approximately twenty-three thousand individuals with developmental disabilities and twenty thousand individuals with other disabilities in the State are eligible to open an ABLE savings account. However, these accounts are currently underutilized as individuals with disabilities and their families are either unaware that the ABLE Savings Program exists or believe that using the Program will endanger any benefits they currently receive. This measure is intended to promote financial independence for individuals with disabilities by incentivizing the use of ABLE savings accounts.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$75,000 for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program and one full-time equivalent position to administer the Program.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 479, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

GREGG TAKNYAMA, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Health

Bill/Resolution No.: Committee SB479, SD1 HL	e Referral: T, FIW	Date	erch F	1 2005
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (C)	X			
2. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L. (VC)	X	-Magazina Balanca (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Magazina (Ma	56-100-140	National Wilder
				14 25 B
3. AMATO, Terez	X		162 1 4472.00	
4. CHUN, Cory M.	X			
5. MARTEN, Lisa				
	The state of			
6. OLDS, Ikaika	X			. 1 (S. 1814 L. S.), (3.6), (2.2), (48)
in Africa (1908) (1919) (1914)				
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna	X			
8. ALCOS III, David	X		szenszenes karoninin járászasza	ada
A CARCIA D.				
9. GARCIA, Diamond	/			
				77 2 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7
TOTAL (9)	CP			
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted				
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO				