

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1813

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2025

RE: H.B. No. 477
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 477, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend certain aspects of the Hawaii Employment Security Law.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Amends the definition of "registered for work" or "registration for work";
- (2) Repeals the requirement to post work availability online;
- (3) Amends the qualifications for unemployed individuals who are able to receive certain unemployment benefits;
- (4) Beginning April 1, 2027, authorizes electronic notification of determinations or redeterminations of unemployment claims; and



- (5) Repeals language that limited an individual's ability to change a previously elected withholding status to once during a benefit year.

Your Committees received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and IUPAT District Council 50.

Your Committees received written comments in opposition to this measure from SHRM Hawaii.

Your Committees received written comments on this measure from the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii.

Your Committees find that this measure establishes a foundation for transitioning the State to a modernized unemployment insurance system while improving services for individuals. Your Committees also find that by streamlining the process for individuals to register for work, this measure addresses existing delays and denials caused by system navigation challenges. Your Committees further find that enabling the electronic delivery of unemployment insurance documents and appeal notifications ensures secure, efficient, and more accessible communication for individuals and reduces dependency on traditional paper and mail processes. Additionally, your Committees find that allowing individuals to adjust their tax withholding multiple times enhances flexibility and responsiveness to changing financial circumstances and improves user experience.

Your Committees have amended this measure by changing the effective date from July 1, 2050, to July 1, 2025.

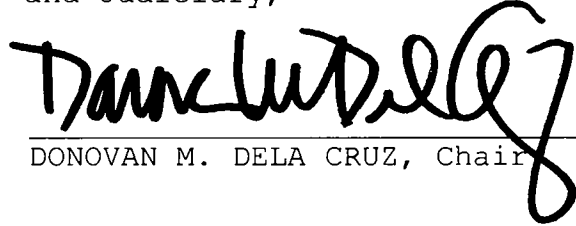
As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 477, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 477, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Ways and Means
and Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair

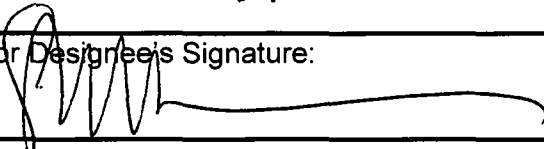


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB477 HD1 SD1	LBT, WAM/JDC	4/1/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
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			
INOUYE, 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	11	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 477 HDI, SDI	Committee Referral: LBT, WAM/JDC	Date: 4/1/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	1	1	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:	Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy

*Only one measure per Record of Votes