

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

517

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1100
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 Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 1100 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACT 253, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2023,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Update the name of the Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program by replacing the term "visually impaired" with the term "low vision"; and
- (2) Clarify the Pilot Program's implementation timeframes.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services; National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that access to essential services for blind and low vision residents, particularly on the neighbor islands, remains limited. Act 253, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, established the Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program to bridge the gaps in services for blind and low vision residents across the State, particularly focusing on those living on the neighbor islands. This measure allows the

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Pilot Program to continue its efforts to empower blind and low vision individuals to live more independently and participate fully in their communities.

Your Committee notes that an appropriation may be needed for the staff, contracting services, and equipment necessary to implement the Neighbor Islands Blind and Low Vision Service Pilot Program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Replacing references to "visually impaired" with the term "low vision" in the preamble of Act 253, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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 Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1100, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1100, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness,



LISA MARTEN, Chair



