STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2060

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR - 3 2006

RE: S.B. No. 3020

S.D. 2

Honorable Robert Bunda President of the Senate Twenty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2006 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 3020, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allow part-time, temporary, and seasonal or casual employees of the State, who do not already have health insurance coverage, to be eligible for health insurance benefits under the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

Your Committee finds that, according to the University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute, approximately six thousand civilian government employees in Hawaii are without health insurance. Many of these public employees are without health insurance due to their employment status as part-time or temporary employees. Under existing law, the state and county governments are exempt from the Prepaid Health Care Act, which requires private employers to provide health insurance coverage to their employees. As a result, the State or a county need not provide health insurance coverage to its temporary or part-time employees. Part-time or temporary public employees are also specifically excluded from coverage under the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

Your Committee also finds that current labor shortages and the need for individuals who are specially trained has necessitated the utilization of an increased number of less than ninety-day hires, as well as part-time employees, thus leaving a number of public employees without health insurance coverage. Your Committee believes that, to properly address the issue of providing health insurance coverage to individuals in the State, especially those that the State may hire on contract or as part-time or seasonal employees, the State must first determine the scope of the problem.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended the measure by deleting its substance and inserting provisions that require the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund to conduct a study on the cost and other impacts of providing health insurance coverage to part-time, temporary, and seasonal or casual employees of the State who do not already have health insurance coverage.

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. 3020, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3020, S.D. 2.

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

BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Third Legislature State of Hawaii

Record of Votes of the Committee on Ways and Means (Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:*	Committee Referral:		Date:	Date:		
SB 3020 SD1	LBR/IGA, WAM 2/28/06					
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.						
If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is to:						
Pass, unamended (2312)	Pass, with ar		Hold Recommit (2310) (2313)			
Members		Ayes	Ayes(WR)	Nays	Excused	
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)						
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)						
ENGLISH, J. Kalani		/	٠.			
ESPERO, Will						
FUKUNAGA, Carol						
HOOSER, Gary L.:						
INOUYE, Lorraine R.		/				
KANNO, Brian		The state of the s				
KIM, Donna Mercado		/				
KOKUBUN, Russell S.						
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.					·	
SAKAMOTO, Norman						
HEMMINGS, Fred					_/_	
SLOM, Sam						
TRIMBLE, Gordon		/				
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TOTAL		12	0	0	3	
Recommendation: Adopted 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						

^{*}Do <u>not</u> list more than one measure per Record of Votes.