STAND. COM. REP. NO. 506

Honolulu, Hawaii

Fey16, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1500 H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2007 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1500 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to adjust the benefit amounts paid to employees from the unemployment insurance trust fund and the contribution rates for employers.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and the National Federation of Independent Business testified in support of this measure. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO supported the intent of this bill. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the ILWU Local 42 testified in opposition to the measure.

Your committee finds that due to low unemployment rates in Hawaii, the level of reserves in the unemployment insurance trust fund is high. This measure seeks to provide relief for employers and also increased benefits for employees. Your committee also finds that it is necessary to ensure that an adequate level of reserves exists in the trust fund, and thus attempts to balance relief for employers and increased benefits for employees against the need to maintain an adequate level of trust fund reserves.

Your committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Increasing the maximum weekly benefit allowance from 75 percent to 80 percent of the average weekly wage;
- (2) Adding a provision which increases the maximum weekly benefit amount to \$150.00; and
- (3) Adding a provision which repeals this measure five years from the effective date.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1500, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1500, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment,

ALEX M. SONSON, Chair

HSCR 506

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-fourth Legislature

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Bill/Resolution No.:	Date:			***
HB 1500	2	-13-07		
Committee Referral:  LAB,FIN		☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.		
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended	Pass, with amendments			
☐ Hold	<ul> <li>Pass, with amendments, for recommittal for further consideration</li> </ul>			
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SONSON, Alex M. (C)	/			
2. NAKASONE, Bob (VC)	V			
3. EVANS, Cindy		1		
4. HAR, Sharon E.		r		
5. LEE, Marilyn B.				
6. LUKE, Sylvia	/			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.		~		A Longitude
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.		V		
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.				
10. TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.		<b>/</b>		
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.				
12. MEYER, Colleen Rose				
13. PINE, Kymberly Marcos		<i>V</i>		
TOTAL	4	9		
The recommendation is:  Adopted  Not Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)  Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Clerk's Office				