STAND. COM. REP. NO. 136 Honolulu, Hawaii Fe 410 , 2009 RE: H.B. No. 600

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Fifth State Legislature Regular Session of 2009 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 600 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to reduce fraud committed in connection with the receipt of public assistance benefits from the Department of Human Services:

More specifically, the measure:

- Establishes a program to reward individuals who report persons who have committed fraud in obtaining assistance from certain Department of Human Services programs;
- (2) Increases the penalties for committing fraud while receiving public assistance; and
- (3) Appropriates funds for the reward program.

Under present law, there is no program to encourage individuals to report fraudulent acts committed by persons receiving assistance from the Department of Human Services. This bill establishes a program to issue monetary awards when a person is convicted and ordered to make restitution to the State.

Current law also provides that an individual who wilfully fails to report a reduced need for public assistance is guilty of



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a petty misdemeanor. This bill increases the penalty by making that conduct a misdemeanor, provided that a recipient who fraudulently obtains more than \$300 in public assistance is guilty of a class C felony, and a recipient who fraudulently obtains more than \$20,000 is guilty of a class B felony.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 600 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Human Services,





State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-fifth Legislature

Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 600	Committee Referral: HUS, JVD, FIN			Date: 02/05/09		
□ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.						
The recommendation is to: A Pass, unamended (as is) D Pass, with amendments (HD) D Hold D Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)						
HUS Members		Ayes	Ayes (W	R)	Nays	Excused
1. MIZUNO, John M. (C)						
2. BROWER, Tom (VC)						
3. BELATTI, Della Au						
	to to day					
4. BERTRAM, Joe, III						
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5. CARROLL, Mele						
6. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.		/				全大学法院管理部 法法言
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7. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.		/				
8. YAMANE, Ryan I.		/				
		-				
9. WARD, Gene						
			x			
TOTAL (9)		6	0		0	3
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted If joint referral,						
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:						
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO						