Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2012

RE: S.B. No. 2608
        S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

    Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B.
No. 2608 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

    The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to be used to
purchase hot food from lunch counters and lunch wagons, and fresh
foods from farmers markets.

    Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from the Department of Human Services
and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this
measure from the Hawai'i Dietetic Association, the Office of
Hawaiian Affairs, and nine individuals.

    Your Committee finds that many low-income households do not
have access to facilities to prepare meals, store fresh foods, and
plan and create nutritious meals. Although allowing low-income
households to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
benefits for the purchase of hot meals served at lunch counters,
lunch wagons, or food vending trucks may increase this
population's access to hot food, these meals are not nutritious
and actually promote unhealthy lifestyles.

    Your Committee further finds that per Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program regulations, recipients are not allowed to use

2012-1086 SSCR SMA.doc

the program's benefits to purchase hot or prepared meals unless a state elects to operate a restaurant meals program for qualified elderly, disabled, and homeless persons. From 1992 to 1998, Hawaii administered such a program, but discontinued the program due to complaints of abuse and a lack of staff to adequately monitor the program.

Your Committee has therefore amended this measure by:

(1)   Deleting language that authorizes the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to purchase hot food from lunch counters and lunch wagons, and fresh staple foods from farmers markets; and

(2)   Adding language requiring the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session that includes:

(A)   The prospective homeless, elderly, or disabled population eligible to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits; and

(B)   The feasibility of re-administering and overseeing a restaurant meals program to allow the use of the benefits to purchase hot or prepared meals at designated restaurants or facilities.

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 S.B. No. 2608, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2608, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair

2012-1086 SSCR SMA.doc

The Senate
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2608	Hms, WAm	2/9/12

☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to:_____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312   ☒ Pass, with amendments 2311   ☐ Hold 2310   ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	1

Recommendation:

☒ Adopted   ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: _____

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*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes