

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1036

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 1 - 2019

RE: S.B. No. 227
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 227, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMMIGRATION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to contract with non-profit providers to provide access to legal counsel to immigrants in immigration proceedings.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Filipina Advocacy Network, Hawai'i J-20+, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and six individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committees find that there are many immigrants who seek to continue legal residence or obtain legal status in the country. However, immigrants are not provided with court-appointed counsel, including those detained and facing deportation. Many immigrants lack the resources to obtain legal representation. Therefore, immigrants who have limited English proficiency and limited understanding of the complex immigration court system, including children, are forced to argue their cases in court without legal representation. The lack of counsel may have a profound impact on immigrants' ability to receive a fair hearing.



Your Committees further find that Hawaii has a tradition of welcoming immigrants. The State's economics are driven by immigrants and immigrants make major contributions to Hawaii. Immigrants are an integral part of Hawaii's diverse, multicultural community.

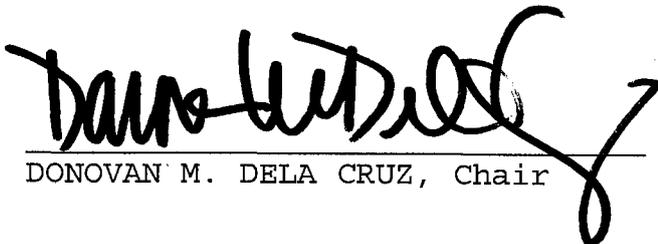
Your Committees note that given the current political climate and the number of immigrants being detained and faced with deportation, immigrants are in dire need of legal help. Therefore, there are vital public policy reasons behind providing legal representation to immigrants in immigration proceedings.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of March 15, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 227, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 227, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 227, SD	HMS, JOC/WAM	2/26/2019		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	/			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)				/
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene	/			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.				/
KAHELE, Kaiali'i				/
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	/			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil				/
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	9			4
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes