

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2351

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2351 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DIAPERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a pilot diaper benefit program for parents who participate in the first to work program administered by the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Children's Action Network. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that a family's need for diapers is not simply a material hardship, but a factor that can contribute to the perpetuation of the cycle of poverty. The cost for diapers can be substantial, averaging approximately \$1,000 per year for a parent or caregiver, or as much as fourteen percent of the after-tax income of a struggling household.

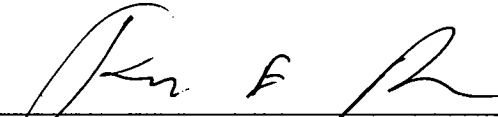
Your Committee further finds that the only federal assistance that can be spent on diapers is the temporary assistance to needy families program. Your Committee also notes families use temporary assistance to needy families to cover a wide range of fundamental necessities. Often there is not enough left over to also cover diapers.



This measure therefore establishes a pilot diaper benefit program for parents who participate in the first to work program. The diaper benefit shall be used by the participant to purchase diapers for the child, shall be issued to qualifying parents through an electronic benefits transfer system, and shall not be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility for any other public benefits.

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. 2351 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2351	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 2/3/20		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (C)	✓			
RHOADS, Karl (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes