

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **300**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2021

RE: S.B. No. 1285
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services and Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1285 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITIES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to better serve the healthcare needs of members of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) community by implementing programs to bridge the cultural and language gaps between healthcare providers and COFA recipients.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights; Papa Ola Lokahi; COFA Alliance National Network; Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team; Nations of Micronesia, Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Center; and eleven individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General, The Queen's Health Systems, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and one individual.

Your Committees find that during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Pacific Islander communities have been affected by COVID-19 at higher numbers than any other community of color in the State. COFA recipients have been particularly



adversely impacted. Your Committees also find that many COFA recipients have experienced prejudice and discrimination in the healthcare system and no longer use medical facilities as a first option to treat illnesses, but rather as an option of last resort that often results in a much more severe prognosis than if the patient had received treatment at an earlier stage. To better serve members of the COFA community, your Committees also find that investing in programs to bridge the cultural and language gaps between healthcare providers and COFA recipients, as well as other communities with similar cultural and language barriers, will lead to more inclusion, reduced healthcare costs, and better health outcomes.

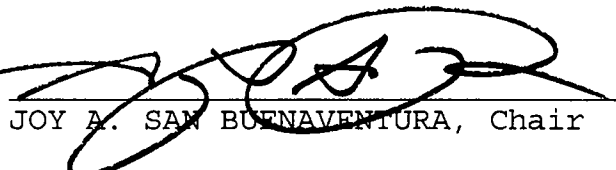
Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying which members of the COFA community are covered by this measure;
- (2) Removing the reference to "other medical facilities" so that the requirements of this measure apply only to hospitals;
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1285, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1285, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services
and Health,

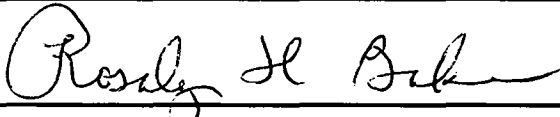

JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair


JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB1285	HMS/HTH - WAM/JDC	2-9-2021		
<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
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.				✓
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	-	-	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes