

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 , 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1945  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 1945 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services to establish a Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Services Pilot Program that supplements existing statewide services by providing training and other services to neighbor island residents who are blind or visually impaired.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, and eight individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services, Department of Budget and Finance, and Executive Office on Aging.

Your Committee finds that state and local support services for blind or visually impaired individuals are provided through economies of scale, and thus tend to benefit residents in populated areas, like Oahu, as compared to those in sparsely populated areas. Your Committee further finds that because of the concentration of support services on Oahu, blind or visually



impaired individuals who live on the neighbor islands may be forced to choose between relocating to Oahu or living without services that would allow them to have full and integrated lives in their existing communities. This measure addresses the disparity in availability of support services by requiring the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot program to provide supplemental services to neighbor island residents who are blind or visually impaired.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the preamble, other than for a narrowed purpose statement;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1945, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1945, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health, Human  
Services, & Homelessness,



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BRIAN I. YAMANE, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-first Legislature

**HSCR155-22**

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 1945	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HHH, CPC, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 02/03/2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
<b>HHH Members</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Ayes (WR)</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Excused</b>
1. YAMANE, Ryan I. (C)	✓			
2. TAM, Adrian K. (VC)	✓			
3. GATES, Cedric Asuega	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
6. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene	✓			
TOTAL (7)	7			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				