

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3337

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2022

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

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 1945, H.D. 1, 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 and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services to establish a Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service 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 Executive Office on Aging, Disability and Communication Access Board, Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Hawaii Association of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that approximately two thousand neighbor island residents who are blind or visually impaired do not have access to or are ineligible for existing state and local support services, including training, adjustments to blindness services,



and transportation. The Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program to be established pursuant to this measure will supplement existing statewide services and enable these individuals to receive the necessary training and other services that would enable them to have full and integrated lives in their existing communities.

Your Committee acknowledges that this measure requires Department of Human Services to identify and secure other sources of funding, including federal funding, to provide matching funds for the pilot program. Your Committee notes the testimony of the Department of Human Services, stating that it will be difficult to secure federal funding for the pilot project since existing federal funding is already allocated to services currently provided by the Department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Branch.

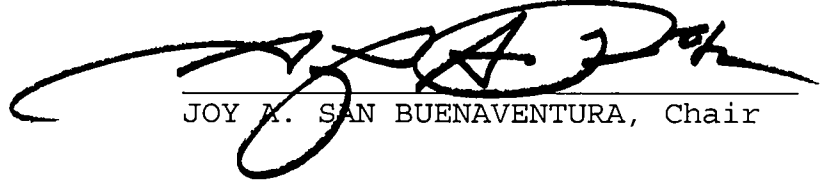
Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the requirement that the Department of Human Services identify and secure other sources of funding, including federal funding, to provide for matching funds for the Neighbor Islands Blind and Visually Impaired Service Pilot Program;
- (2) Defining "neighbor island"; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 H.B. No. 1945, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1945, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



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

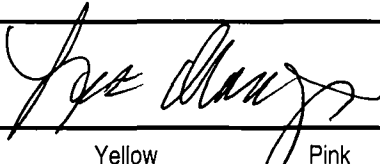


JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HD 1949, HD1	HMS, NAM	03/17/2022		
<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
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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