STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2088

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 7 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2437 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 S.B. No. 2437 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 National Federation of the Blind of Hawai'i, Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors, and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services, Department of Budget and Finance, and one individual.

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 has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of Human Services shall work with neighbor island transportation service providers and other individuals and entities to develop a special needs transportation assistance service network to serve program participants;
- (2) Defining "neighbor island"; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee has reviewed the testimony of the Department of Budget and Finance expressing concerns regarding this measure's possible effect on the State's obligation to adhere to the maintenance of effort requirements as a recipient of Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021. Your Committee finds that this issue raises concerns that merit further consideration and respectfully requests that your Committee on Ways and Means further examine those issues and concerns raised by the testimonies on this measure.

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. 2437, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2437, 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,

OY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

2022-1360 SSCR SMA.doc

The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Human Services HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	-
5B 2437	HMS, WAM			02/01	2022
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR	l) Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)		V			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)		V			
ACASIO, Laura		V			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.		V			
FEVELLA, Kurt		V			
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TOTAL		9	0	0	0
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					I
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original File with Committee Re	Yellow port Clerk's Office		Pink Goldenrod Drafting Agency Committee File Copy		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes