

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1044

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2023

RE: S.B. No. 606
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 606, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEARING AIDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make hearing aids more affordable.

More specifically, this measure exempts from the general excise tax, gross receipts received by a hospital, infirmary, medical clinic, health care facility, pharmacy, or a practitioner licensed to administer drugs to an individual, from the sale of hearing aids.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and eight individuals.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Taxation and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that hearing is an important sense upon which an individual depends for communication. Your Committee also finds that adding the general excise tax to the cost of hearing aids may preclude people who rely on these devices from being able to afford them.



Your Committee notes the Department of Taxation's request that the measure take effect on January 1, 2024, to allow sufficient time to make necessary form and system changes.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adding a sunset date of January 1, 2026.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 606, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 606, S.D. 2.

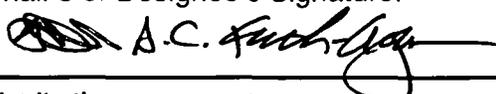
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB606, SDI	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 3/2/23		
<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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn				X
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12			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