

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3294

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2556
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 2556, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Clarify the sources of funding for the Hawaii ABLE Saving Program Trust Fund;
- (2) Authorize the Director of Finance to expend all moneys in the trust fund to fulfill the purposes of the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program, including providing incentive payments to Hawaii public school ABLE account owners; and
- (3) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance, Executive Office on Aging, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Communication Access Board, Special Education Advisory Council, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and six individuals.



Your Committee finds that Act 206, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program, which is modeled after certain college savings plans where interest grows tax free and allows individuals with disabilities the same types of flexible savings accounts as those individuals without disabilities, such as college, health, and individual retirement accounts. Presently, there are approximately twenty-three thousand individuals with disabilities statewide who are eligible to open an ABLE Savings Program account. As savings accounts can prepare individuals and their families for future educational, professional, and life goals, ensuring dedicated resources through statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management are needed. Therefore, this measure increases the staffing resources to promote the ABLE Savings Program to ensure vulnerable populations can pursue all available resources to achieve a better life experience.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

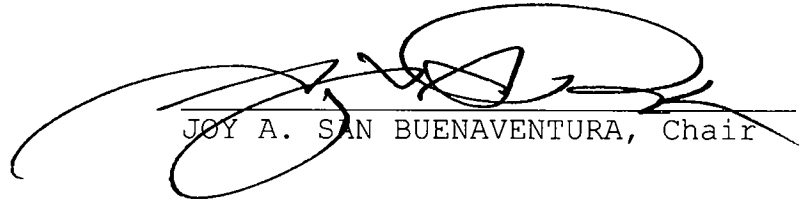
- (1) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure contains unspecified appropriation amounts for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program and an unspecified number of full-time equivalent positions to support this program. Your Committee respectfully requests the various departments determine appropriation amounts for subsequent committees to consider as this measure moves through the legislative process.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2556, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2556, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



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



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB255Q, HD2	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 3/20/24		
<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)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
KEOHOKAOLE, Jarrett	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
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