STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1115-24

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 , 2024

RE: S.B. No. 3239

S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 3239, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Office of Wellness and Resilience to convene a Medical Debt Forgiveness Working Group to study the feasibility of developing, implementing, and executing a program for the State to acquire and forgive outstanding medical debt of Hawaii residents.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency; Healthcare Association of Hawaii; The Queen's Health System; Holomua Collaborative; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Wellness and Resilience and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Your Committee finds that medical debt can take a serious toll on an individual's mental and physical well-being. Individuals with debt are three times more likely to have mental health conditions, such as anxiety, stress, or depression. Medical debt is also more likely to burden people with disabilities or in worse health, lower-income persons, and

uninsured persons. This measure will convene a working group to examine the feasibility of relieving Hawaii residents of a medical debt burden.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3239, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

CorMARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives



## **Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

SB3239 SD2 HD1	HLT, CPC, FIN	CPC, FIN Date: 3/2/		1/2024	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
<b>CPC Members</b>	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)					
2. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (VC)			mr. 1 i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i		
3. AMATO, Terez					
4. BELATTI, Della Au	:		A STATE OF THE STA		
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5. HASHEM, Mark J.				apara in the	
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia					
o. Meddel Dexident, I atalia					
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega		The state of the s		Kamaranan ing mengganan	
			CHIPPET TO		
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.	The Thirty		1550 mile		
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.					
			Table Calling Section		
10. TAM, Adrian K.					
11. PIERICK, Elijah					
TOTAL (11)	5	0	/	5	
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO					