

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2925

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 608
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 608, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS RIGHTS AND BENEFITS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to regulate persons
receiving compensation for providing advice or assistance
regarding veterans benefits.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Defense, Veterans of Foreign Wars Hawaii,
and two individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this
measure from Veteran Benefits Guide, the Veterans Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawaii, and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from
Capitol Consultants of Hawaii on behalf of Veteran Benefits Guide
and one individual.

Your Committees find that there is a gray market of
"consultants" or companies, which are often not accredited by the
Department of Veterans Affairs and operate outside federal fee
caps and oversight, that charge veterans high fees for medical
consulting or coaching services for submission of United States



Department of Veterans Affairs claims. This measure would provide safeguards from potential "claim sharks" and increase transparency for veterans seeking support.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have prohibited a person from receiving excessive or unreasonable compensation for preparing, presenting, or prosecuting; or advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with, any veterans benefits matter as governed by federal law;
- (2) Deleting language that would have required any written agreement for compensation related to any veterans benefits matter to adhere to all criteria specified in federal law regarding the payment of fees for services rendered;
- (3) Inserting language that clarifies written agreement requirements, prescribes certain limitations on compensation for services provided, and prohibits a person from charging initial fees for advising, assisting, or consulting an individual in connection with any veterans benefits matter; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 608, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 608, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Commerce and
Consumer Protection and
Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair

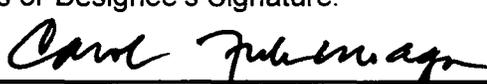


JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB608 SDI	Committee Referral: PSM, CPN/JDC	Date: 2/26/2026		
<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
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele				✓
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 606 SDI	Committee Referral: PSM, CPN/JDC	Date: 2/26/26
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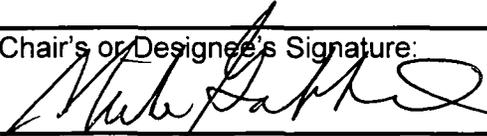
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

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
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Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.		✓		
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4	1	—	—

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


Distribution: Original Yellow Pink
 File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency

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