

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 79

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2015

RE: S.B. No. 1107

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 1107 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate \$2,514,822 in general funds as an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services for general assistance payments to address the budget shortfall for the general support of the general assistance program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, PHOCUSED, and Bridge to Hope.

Your Committee finds that a critical funding emergency exists that threatens the general assistance program, which provides cash benefits for food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials to approximately 5,752 adults who are temporarily disabled and do not qualify for federal benefits through the Social Security Administration. The program will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the current fiscal year and will then be unable to maintain the current monthly benefit, which is already barely enough to cover living expenses for eligible individuals. Your Committee further finds that the general assistance program is a block grant, and the Department of Human Services is unable to cover the current shortfall with funding from other programs.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1107 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.


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

Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Housing
HSH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1107	Committee Referral: HSH, WAM	Date: 2/5/15		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"></div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes