

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1020**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 25 2015

RE: H.B. No. 1432
H.D. 2

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 H.B. No. 1432, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE INTERIM ASSISTANCE
REIMBURSEMENT SPECIAL FUND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish the interim assistance reimbursement special fund so that the Department of Human Services can preserve from one fiscal year to the next any interim assistance reimbursements received from the federal government for state-funded financial assistance payments and programs to assist recipients who qualify for supplemental security income benefits.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that it is important to provide financial stability to state-funded assistance programs. Your Committee further finds that Hawaii's state-funded financial assistance program is not financially stable. During times of economic downturn, the Department of Human Services runs low on general assistance funds and is left with the option to reduce or terminate monthly allotments to disabled single adults or request an emergency appropriation from the Legislature. Your Committee finds that establishing an interim assistance reimbursement

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special fund would provide more stability to the general assistance funds by allowing the Department to retain interim assistance reimbursements received from the federal government for a prior fiscal year on behalf of individuals who qualify for supplemental security income. Currently, the Department is not allowed to keep such funds for the general assistance program and instead is required to deposit the reimbursements into the general fund. Allowing the Department to preserve the federal reimbursements from one fiscal year to the next will allow the Department to increase general assistance payments earlier and in a higher amount.

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 H.B. No. 1432, H.D. 2, 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, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Housing
HSH

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1432, HD2	Committee Referral: HSH, WAM	Date: 3/19/15
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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:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	X			
GREEN, Josh (VC)				X
HARIMOTO, Breene	X			
RIVIERE, Gil	X			
SLOM, Sam				X
TOTAL	3	0	0	2

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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