

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2767

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2020

RE: S.B. No. 3141
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.B. No. 3141 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME IMMIGRANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Office of Community Services to contract with non-profit service providers for legal counsel to assist and represent low-income immigrants in immigration proceedings and immigrant status cases.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Office of Community Services, Filipina Advocacy Network, The Legal Clinic, Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Domestic Violence Action Center, and eight individuals.

Your Committee finds that many immigrants seek to continue or obtain legal status and citizenship in this country. However, they face barriers to obtaining legal status and citizenship. Low-income immigrants often lack the resources to obtain legal representation, which may have a profound impact on the immigrants' ability to receive a fair hearing.



Your Committee further finds that immigrants are an integral part of Hawaii's diverse, multicultural community and make extensive contributions to the State. Given the current political climate, a significant number of low-income immigrants are at risk of being detained or deported. Therefore, there are vital public policy reasons behind providing counsel to immigrants in immigration proceedings.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion;
- (2) Inserting a blank appropriation amount; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3141, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3141, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor, Culture and
the Arts,

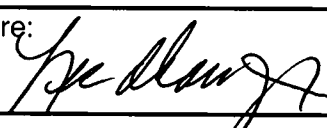


BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
LCA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 3141	Committee Referral: LCA, WAM	Date: 2/04/2020		
<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
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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