

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1635

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 55

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Housing, to which was referred S.C.R.  
No. 55 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AMEND  
TITLE IV-A OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO ALLOW TEMPORARY  
ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES FUNDS TO BE USED BY STATES TO  
BUILD TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE RENTAL  
HOUSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge Hawaii's  
congressional delegation to introduce and support legislation to  
amend Title IV-A of the Social Security Act to allow Temporary  
Assistance for Needy Families funds to be used by states to build  
transitional supportive housing and affordable rental housing.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Your  
Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of  
Human Services and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the federal Temporary Assistance  
for Needy Families (TANF) program, administered by the United  
States Department of Health and Human Services, provides block  
grants to states that may be used to provide a wide range of  
services and short-term cash assistance payments to certain low-  
income families with children. However, under existing federal



law, TANF funds cannot be used for capital improvement projects, such as the development and construction of housing. Hawaii's unspent TANF reserves are the second highest in the nation as a proportion of states' annual block grants. Accordingly, because funding is a major factor in the creation of affordable housing (especially supportive housing), this measure urges Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce and support legislation to amend existing federal law to allow TANF funds to be used to build transitional supportive housing and affordable rental housing to help the State address its housing needs.

Your Committee notes the concerns raised in testimony submitted by the Department of Human Services that, due to the nature of the TANF program, if federal laws were amended to allow for the construction of affordable housing with TANF funds, any resulting project would likely be made available only to those specific families eligible under the TANF program. Due to the State's ongoing housing crisis and need for a broad range of housing inventory across multiple groups of individuals, families, and price points, your Committee further notes that Hawaii's congressional delegation should also support legislation that increases housing resources to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, given the Department's mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and affordable homes for all.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 55 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Housing,

  
STANLEY CHANG, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
 Committee on Housing  
 HOU

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SCR 55</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">HOU</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">03/30/2023</div>
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input 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
CHANG, Stanley (C)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo (VC)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation:        Adopted     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