

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3539

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 11 2008

RE: S.R. No. 52

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.R. No. 52 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN RIGHTS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REFERRED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to inform the parents of children who have been referred for special education services of certain rights, and to ensure recognition thereof.

Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by the Department of Education. Written comments on the measure were submitted by the Special Education Advisory Council, which stated, among other things, that the measure was unnecessary.

Your Committee finds that, in light of the testimony submitted, this measure was not necessary in its original form, and could be used as a vehicle to promote asset-building in the State. In this regard, S.B. No. 2839 was introduced this legislative session to establish a Public Financial Education and Asset-Building task force to develop policy recommendations to help Hawaii's families achieve financial goals. However, S.B. No. 2839 was not returned to the Senate by the House of Representatives.



Your Committee proposed a new draft of the measure that reflected the contents of S.B. No. 2839, and held a public hearing thereupon. Testimony in support of the proposed draft was submitted by the Department of Education, Aloha United Way, the Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, the Hawai'i Council on Economic Education, the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and the National Association of Social Workers Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that the cost of purchasing a home, pursuing post-secondary education, and starting a business in Hawaii is becoming prohibitively expensive for many residents. Additionally, community education and policies geared toward asset-building would help lower- and middle-income families achieve greater financial independence that would, in turn, help to promote stability throughout various sectors of the state economy.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by replacing its contents with language from S.B. No. 2839 that establishes a Public Financial Education and Asset-Building task force to be convened by the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing and the House Committee on Human Services and Housing. The purpose of the task force is to develop policy recommendations regarding universal, matched savings accounts for newborns, statewide standards for financial and economic education for public- and private-sector employees, and the elimination of asset limits as a bar to eligibility for public benefit programs.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 52, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 52, S.D. 1.

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


SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SR 52</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HSP</i>	Date: <i>4/10/08</i>		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)				✓
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	<i>3</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>N Sakamoto</i></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