

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 6, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 979

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 979
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to protect Hawaii's fragile
environment by redirecting certain special fund monies to:

- (1) Support invasive species control and mitigation; and
- (2) Promote reforestation and sediment run-off mitigation.

E Kupaku Ka'Aina testified in support of this bill. The
Department of Land and Natural Resources testified in opposition
to this measure. The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii commented on
this bill.

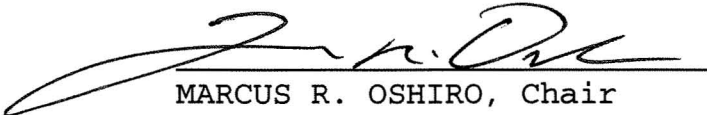
Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2020, to
encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity,
consistency, and style.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 979, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 979, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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


MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



