



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Media Statement  
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### **Sen. Malama Solomon's Statement on Senate Bill 286 SD 1**

Honolulu –Senate Bill 286 Senate Draft 1, relating to reapportionment, requires reapportionment to be based in part on population data of the total number of permanent residents in the State and it defines "permanent resident" for legislative reapportionment purposes as any individual counted as a usual resident in the last preceding United States census within the State of Hawaii. Senator Malama Solomon (District 4- Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona) states:

***"I was one of the four plaintiffs in Solomon v. Abercrombie, 126 Haw. 283, 270 P.3d 1013 (2012), who were successful in proceedings before the State Supreme Court on the reapportioning of the State Senate to add a fourth State Senate seat to the County of Hawaii.***

***In effect, the decision in question by the 2011 Reapportionment Commission to include "nonresident military and dependents, nonresident students and incarcerated felons" in the population data used to determine districts was overturned.***

***First, let me make this clear: I am the sister of a dearly loved fallen soldier who gave his life in Vietnam for the freedoms we enjoy, and am therefore, deeply committed to protecting the rights and interests of our dedicated men and women in uniform. However, to suggest that Hawaii is dishonoring the contribution of our military forces by excluding these "nonresidents" in our population base is a very effective distraction from the real truth, which is that these Americans are just that – "nonresidents". They have permanent residences and loyalties to their states and – historically – they vote in their home states not in ours.***

***Please understand that the question about including "nonresidents" should be moot; the people of Hawaii weighed in on the issue of fair and equitable representation in the reapportionment process with passage of a Hawaii Constitutional Amendment in 1992. That amendment changed the population base to be used for reapportionment from "registered voters" to "permanent residents."***

***As a result, I voted nay on Senate Bill No. 286, Senate Draft No. 1, with deep regret but strong conviction."***

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