

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

495

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2017

RE: S.B. No. 589

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 589  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HOUSELESS BILL OF RIGHTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to define specific  
rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access  
to housing, jobs, and shelters; equal treatment by government  
agencies; and access to life-sustaining activities and essential  
services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, IMUAlliance, The CHOW  
Project, and eight individuals. Your Committee received comments  
on this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness,  
Department of Human Services, and Department of the Attorney  
General.

Your Committee finds that the population of houseless persons  
in Hawaii rose by twenty-five percent between 2009 and 2016 and  
that houseless persons frequently experience significant hardship  
due to a lack of services and access to shelter. Your Committee  
additionally finds that this measure will establish specific  
rights for houseless persons to ensure equal treatment by  
government agencies and access to life-sustaining activities and  
essential services. Your Committee also finds that significant



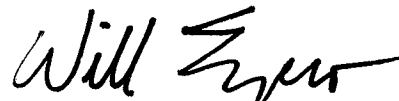
concerns have been raised in testimony on this measure regarding compatibility with existing law and with essential functions of the State.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing language providing the right to sleep in legally parked automobiles;
- (2) Removing language providing that access to public hygiene facilities and accommodations must be on a twenty-four hour basis, or anywhere within the State;
- (3) Adding language clarifying that the right of access to services essential to survival does not limit law enforcement activities and efforts to promote health, safety, and welfare; and
- (4) 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 Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 589, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 589, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Labor.

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



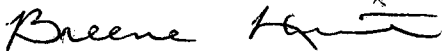
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WILL ESPERO, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Housing**  
**HOU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 589</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HOU, WAM/JDL</b>	Date: <b>2/14/17</b>		
<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
ESPERO, Will (C)	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene (VC)	✓			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i				✓
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes