

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 542

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2017

RE: S.B. No. 961

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 961 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES
COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the
Hawaiian Homes Commission to reduce from three to two the number
of commissioners who are residents of the City and County of
Honolulu, and increase from two to three the number of
commissioners to represent the County of Maui, of whom one shall
represent the Island of Lana'i.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
Kalamaula Homesteaders Association, Council for Native Hawaiian
Advancement, and twelve individuals. Your Committee received
testimony in opposition to this measure from the Sovereign
Councils of the Hawaiian Homeland Assembly and one individual.
Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Council
of Native Hawaiian Associations and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaiian Homes Commission is
currently composed of nine members, and at least one member is a
resident of each island on which the Department of Hawaiian Home
Lands has land with the exception of Lana'i. The Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands acquired fifty acres on Lana'i in 1999, the
Department has awarded twenty-nine leases on Lana'i, and there are




sixty-six applicants awaiting lease awards on Lana'i. However, there is no requirement that a member of the commission be a resident of Lana'i.

Your Committee is concerned that there are many boards and commissions that are Oahu centric, which voids direct representation of the other islands. Public bodies should be fairly representative of the population of the State, with no one island dominating membership. With remote electronic access to meetings, your Committee believes that there are no longer any barriers in place to exclude membership of neighbor islanders.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 961 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 961	Committee Referral: HWN	Date: 2/7/2017		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood (VC)	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
GREEN, Josh	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado				✓
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> 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