

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **435**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2019

RE: S.B. No. 1503
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 1503 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow
incarcerated individuals who were Hawaii residents immediately
prior to incarceration to vote in Hawaii elections via absentee
ballot.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Public Safety, Community Alliance on
Prisons, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, O'ahu County Committee
on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i,
Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee, and three individuals.
Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure
from the Honolulu County Republican Party and three individuals.
Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office
of Elections and one individual.

Your Committee finds that eighteen countries grant voting
rights to the incarcerated regardless of the offense, and that
preventing incarcerated individuals from voting has a
disproportionate effect on communities of color.



Your Committee further finds that the loss of the right to vote impedes the successful reentry of full human beings who are prepared as responsible and productive citizens before release to ensure successful reintegration into the community. Your Committee believes that voting can be an opportunity for incarcerated persons to learn about candidates and issues, engage in civic education, and prepare for reintegration into society.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee requests that your Committee on Ways and Means consider appropriating additional funds to the Office of Elections for the purpose of processing additional absentee ballots from incarcerated persons.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1503, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1503, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,


CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1503	Committee Referral: PSM, JDC/WAM	Date: 2/5/19		
<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
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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