

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2165

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2115

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2115 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ROOM CONFINEMENT OF
MINORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to protect minors
who are being confined at detention and shelter facilities by
defining specific conditions and time limits under which they may
be confined.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Office of the
Public Defender, and Office of Youth Services. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Disability
Rights Center.

Your Committee finds that over the past decade, Hawaii's
juvenile justice system has undergone a major philosophical shift
toward evidence-based and trauma responsive approaches for holding
youth accountable for their conduct. In keeping with the
significant advances in how to handle youth, facilities that rely
on room confinement to control youth must also change their
approach. Your Committee also finds that long periods of
isolation have negative consequences for youth as they are
especially vulnerable to the mental and emotional effects of room
confinement. Room confinement poses a safety risk for youth,



including the increased likelihood of self-harm, suicide, and re-traumatizing those who were already victimized. Your Committee finds that codifying these confinement conditions and limitations will better protect minors.

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. 2115 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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

Clarence K. Nishihara

CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



