

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2022RE: S.B. No. 3273
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 3273 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Department of Environmental Protection by July 1, 2026;
- (2) Create a Department of Environmental Protection working group to evaluate the logistics required for the State to establish a Department of Environmental Protection; and
- (3) Require the working group to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature prior to the 2025 Regular Session.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu, and League of Women Voters of Hawaii. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i



State Energy Office, and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

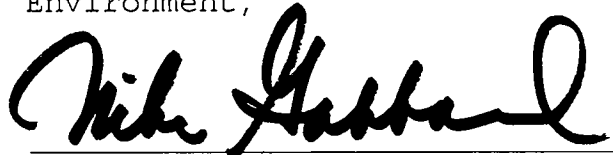
Your Committee finds that many states have executive level departments or agencies dedicated to environmental policies and protection. Hawaii, however, does not have a department for environmental protection. Given the increasing threat posed by climate change and growing awareness of the importance of environmental protection, the State needs an executive level department dedicated to the implementation of environmental policies. This measure requires the establishment of a Department of Environmental Protection by July 1, 2026, and creates a working group to ensure effective and efficient establishment of a Department of Environmental Protection.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Statutorily establishing a Board of Environmental Protection to oversee the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- (2) 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 Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3273, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3273, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,




MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 3273	Committee Referral: AEN, WAM	Date: 02/14/22		
<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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt				/
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