

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

454

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 1212
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and
Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1212 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER NEUTRALITY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a task force to
develop a plan for Hawaii to be water-neutral by the year 2050.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Environmental Caucus of
the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and two individuals. Your
Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from
five individuals. Your Committees received comments on this
measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committees find that water neutrality is a key aspect of
sustainable water management and can provide numerous benefits to
organizations, communities, and the environment. Establishing a
plan to achieve water neutrality will ensure sustainable water
use, water security, and improved environmental quality for the
State and its residents.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

2023-1477 HB1212 HD1 HSCR HMSO



- (1) Establishing the water neutrality task force within the Commission on Water Resource Management, rather than the Department of Health;
- (2) Adding and designating the Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management or the Chairperson's designee to be the Chairperson of the task force;
- (3) Clarifying that the member of the Commission on Water Resource Management on the task force shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques;
- (4) Adding the Manager and Chief Engineer, or the Manager's designee, from each county board or department of water supply to the task force;
- (5) Extending by two years the deadline for the task force to submit a report to the Legislature to twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026;
- (6) Extending by two years the date that the task force will cease to exist to June 30, 2026;
- (7) Inserting an appropriation for an unspecified amount for fiscal year 2023-2024 to establish the water neutrality task force and a water neutrality plan;
- (8) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (9) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committees respectfully request your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$500,000.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1212, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached



hereto as H.B. No. 1212, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy &
Environmental Protection and
Water & Land,

 For
LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair


NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1212	Committee Referral: EEP/WAL, FIN	Date: 02/9/2023		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. COCHRAN, Elle (VC)	✓			
3. GATES, Cedric Asuega				✓
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (7)	5	0	0	2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Elle Cochran</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				

