

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3105

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1529
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1529, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BURIAL COUNCILS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow an Island
Burial Council member whose term has expired to continue in office
as a holdover member until the member's reappointment to a second
term is confirmed or a successor is nominated and appointed.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that delays in nominating and
appointing, or reappointing, members to Island Burial Councils may
affect the ability of councils to function effectively. If a
member's term expires and the member's reappointment is delayed or
a successor is not timely appointed, the Island Burial Council may
lack sufficient quorum necessary to conduct business. Your
Committee further finds that Island Burial Councils do not always
allow council members or the public to participate in meetings
virtually or by phone, further delaying meetings. Therefore, your



Committee finds that this measure should ensure that Island Burial Councils will continue to run smoothly by permitting any Island Burial Council member whose term has expired to continue in office as a holdover member and additionally allowing Island Burial Council meetings be conducted pursuant to section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to accommodate remote participation from council members and the public.

Your Committee notes that Island Burial Council meetings are often postponed because they lack sufficient quorum. Your Committee also notes that meetings may also be delayed by the opinion of the Chairperson of the Burial Council on remote participation in meetings or proceedings. These delays impede land development, hampering the State's ability to provide affordable housing for residents amid a housing crisis. Therefore, your Committee recommends that a Burial Council Chairperson's preferences regarding remote participation in meetings shall not be binding and only advisory.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language allowing Island Burial Council meetings be conducted pursuant to section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow council members and the public to participate in meetings remotely;
- (2) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (3) 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 Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1529, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1529, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.



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



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1529, HD2	Committee Referral: HWN, JDC	Date: 3/12/2024
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt (VC)	X			
IHARA, Jr., Les	X X			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
TOTAL	4	1		

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:
Kurt Fevella

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes