

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2226

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2779  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 2779 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to build sufficient rental housing, including rental apartment units, and rent-with-option-to-buy housing units, to satisfy the housing needs of native Hawaiians on the waitlist for homestead leases.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Hawai'i State Youth Commission; Ho'omana Pono, LLC; and five individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association and eight individuals.

Your Committees find that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is obligated to develop and deliver land to its native Hawaiian beneficiaries. However, as of December 31, 2022, approximately 29,300 native Hawaiian adults were on the waitlist for homesteads. This measure will be a step toward reducing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' waitlist backlog, which has not

significantly decrease despite plans to develop more Hawaiian home lands lots.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have required the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to build sufficient rental housing, including rental apartment units, and rent-with-option-to-buy housing units, to satisfy the housing needs of native Hawaiians on the waitlist for homestead leases; and
- (2) Inserting language that requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to:
  - (A) Ensure compliance with the plan implemented in Act 279, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, as approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in August 2022, and whose findings were approved by Governor Ige in December 2022;
  - (B) Utilize trust assets and formulate plans, proposals, and budget requests that shall cause the immediate reduction of the number of native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the Department's waitlist;
  - (C) Utilize the beneficiary survey conducted in 2020 to guide decision making and consult native Hawaiian beneficiaries as necessary to ensure that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands serves in their best interest; and
  - (D) Consider all models of development and financial opportunities that may assist beneficiaries in acquiring lease awards.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Housing that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2779, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2779, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Hawaiian Affairs  
and Housing,

  
STANLEY CHANG, Chair

  
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.:* <i>SB 2779</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HWN/HOU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2/6/24</i>
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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			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			

Recommendation:    
 Adopted    
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  
*Kurt Fevella*

Distribution:    
 Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod  
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Housing**  
**HOU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2779</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HWN/HOU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2/6/24</i>
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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
CHANG, Stanley (C)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N. (VC)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	<i>WAM / 10/21</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>

Recommendation:      Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

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