

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1918

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 16 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 128
H.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred
H.C.R. No. 128, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S
OBLIGATION TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ITS PEOPLE
BY RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF FRESHWATER IN MAINTAINING
HEALTHY NEARSHORE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to reaffirm the
State's obligation to uphold the constitutional rights of its
people by recognizing the critical role of freshwater in
maintaining healthy nearshore marine ecosystems.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Sierra Club of
Hawai'i, Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea, Marine Advocates Collaborating for
Sustainable Aquatic Life through Actions & Discipline, Kua'āina Ulu
'Auamo, Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that freshwater in the nearshore marine
ecosystem is essential to the health and abundance of the State's
nearshore waters. Your Committee further finds that certain
alterations to freshwater sources damage nearshore marine
habitats, causing coral bleaching, invasive algal blooms, loss of
biodiversity, and loss of Native Hawaiian cultural resources.
Your Committee also finds that it is imperative to protect and



restore freshwater flows to ensure the perpetuation of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices and long-term health and resilience of the State's nearshore marine ecosystems. This measure will encourage the protection and restoration of freshwater flows to nearshore marine ecosystems.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 128, H.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HCR 128, HD 1</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">WTL</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">4/11/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 2px;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes