Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 4 2025

RE: S.B. No. 121

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 121 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE SENATE MORE TIME TO CONFIRM JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to propose an amendment to article VI, section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution to allow the Senate sixty days during certain times of the year in which to consider and act on the appointments of justices and judges.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii State Constitution requires the Senate to act within thirty days upon receipt of a judicial appointment. Your Committee further finds that judicial appointments have been made throughout the year, including during the interim when the Senate is not in session, requiring the Senate to convene a special session to consider the appointments. Each special session costs approximately \$5,000 for airfare and per diem for neighbor island senators, in addition to senator and staff time, and some special sessions address just one or two appointments. Accordingly, this measure will provide flexibility in the scheduling of special sessions and may reduce the number of

2025-1041 SSCR SMA.docx



special sessions by lengthening the period of time allowed for the Senate to consider judicial appointments when the Senate is not in regular session or is about to adjourn the regular session.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 121 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary JDC

| Bill / Resolution No.:* | Committee Referral: | | | Date: | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| SB 121 | JDC, WAM | | | 01/28/25 | |
| The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. | | | | | |
| If so, then the previous decision was to: | | | | | |
| The Recommendation is: | | | | | |
| Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313 | | | | | |
| Members | | Aye _ | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| RHOADS, Karl (C) | | | | | |
| GABBARD, Mike (VC) | | V_{\perp} | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | | V | | | |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. | | V | / | | |
| AWA, Brenton | | V_{\perp} | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | <u> </u> | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | - | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | . | ļ | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 5 | | | |
| Recommendation: | | | | | |
| Adopted Not Adopted | | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: Whe Halbard | | | | | |
| Distribution: / Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Co | | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes