Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 1 4 2025

RE: S.B. No. 617 S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 617 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require each draft environmental assessment or draft environmental impact statement to receive a public hearing in the community directly affected by the underlying proposed action; and
- (2) Require the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to adopt administrative rules.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Animal Rights Hawai'i and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Your Committees find that there are concerns from many communities in the State that they do not have an adequate voice in the decisions that directly affect them, including proposed land use actions. Your Committees note that holding public

hearings in communities directly affected by a proposed action would ensure that areas that are often underserved and underrepresented receive an opportunity for direct input and engagement with critical issues that require environmental assessments or environmental impact statements. Your Committees note that the existing environmental review process requires a thirty-day public comment period on a draft environmental assessment. According to testimony received by your Committees, the administrative burden to conduct all the public hearings required in this measure would be substantial. Amendments to this measure are therefore necessary to address this concern.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring each draft environmental impact statement to receive a public hearing in the community affected by the underlying proposed action; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government Operations that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 617, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 617, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

> behalf of the members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government

Respectfully submitted on

ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair

The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee	Referral:	Dat	e: //	1				
SB617	Committee Referral: Date: 2/11/25								
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				
GABBARD, Mike (C)		/			_				
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)									
DECOITE, Lynn					./				
RHOADS, Karl									
AWA, Brenton									
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TOTAL		3	0	0	2_				
Recommendation:									
Adopted Not Adopted									
Chair's or Designee's Signature:									
Distribution: Original File with Committee Re	Yellow eport Clerk's Office		Pink Goldenrod rafting Agency Committee File Copy						

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Government Operations GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* \$8617	Committee Referral: Date: AEN/GVO, JDC/WAM 2-//-25								
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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 Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313									
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused				
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (C)			•						
GABBARD, Mike (VC)									
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.		V	,						
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A	٨.		/						
FEVELLA, Kurt									
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TOTAL		5							
Recommendation:									
Adopted Not Adopted									
Chair sor Designed Signature									
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy									

*Only one measure per Record of Votes