

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1420

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2025

RE: S.R. No. 149  
S.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 Judiciary, to which was referred S.R.  
No. 149 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION AND  
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO REVIEW THE HAWAII  
REVISED STATUTES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER-NEUTRAL  
LANGUAGE TERMINOLOGY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the  
Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus  
Commission and State Commission on the Status of Women to  
collaborate and conduct a comprehensive review of the Hawaii  
Revised Statutes and recommend amendments to incorporate gender  
neutral terminology.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Pride at  
Work Hawai'i, and nine individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this  
measure from two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State has a proud history of  
embracing diversity and fostering a society where all individuals  
are treated with dignity and respect. Despite this, much of the  
State's statutory language continues to reinforce outdated and



exclusionary gender assumptions. For example, terms such as "husband" and "wife" remain in existing law, where "spouse" would be more inclusive. Similarly, gendered pronouns are often used where neutral terms could better reflect the diversity of gender identities in the State. This measure will ensure that the State's laws reflect the full spectrum of gender identities and family structures.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau, rather than the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission and State Commission on the Status of Women, to conduct a comprehensive review of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and recommend amendments to incorporate gender neutral terminology;
- (2) Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to submit an interim and final report to the Legislature forty days before the Regular Sessions of 2026 and 2027, respectively;
- (3) Deleting language that would have requested the Department of the Attorney General to assist the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission and State Commission on the Status of Women in conducting the comprehensive review;
- (4) Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to consult with the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission; State Commission on the Status of Women; certain civil rights experts; and certain law-related organizations when conducting the comprehensive review;
- (5) Amending its title accordingly; and
- (6) 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 Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 149, as



amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 149, S.D. 1.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
Committee on Judiciary  
JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SR 149</i>	Committee Referral: <i>JDC</i>	Date: <i>3/20/25</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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				/
CHANG, Stanley	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	/			
AWA, Brenton			/	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>3</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

Recommendation:      Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  


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**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**