

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

807

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 103

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 103 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SENTENCING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to change the age for which individuals are eligible for life without parole sentences from eighteen years of age or older to twenty-one years of age or older.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender and Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i Kawai'oa. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu and one individual.

Your Committee finds that juveniles are psychologically and developmentally different from adults and these differences should be recognized by the legal system. Juveniles are extremely vulnerable to negative environments and are easily influenced by crime-producing influences, such as physical, sexual, and psychological abuse by family members, other adults, and older juveniles. Juveniles are less capable than adults to consider the long-term impact of their actions, control their emotions and impulses, or evaluate risks and reward. Juveniles do not have control over their living situations and may experience traumas

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related to family homelessness, abandonment, exposure to adult drug abuse, and the realities of living in poverty that create environments susceptible to gang involvement or exposure to adult criminal behaviors. This measure raises the age to twenty-one years of age or older for which individuals are eligible for life without parole sentences.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 103 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

**HSCR 807**

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB103	<b>Committee Referral:</b> JHA	<b>Date:</b> 02/07/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au				✓
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond			✓	
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.			✓	
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	7	0	2	2
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee   Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office   Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				