

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1419

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 179
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.C.R.
No. 179 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT 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 Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
Plus Commission; Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women;
Pride at Work Hawai'i; and seven 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State's statutory language continues to reinforce outdated and exclusionary gender assumptions.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.C.R. No. 179, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 179, S.D. 1.

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.:* <i>SCR 179</i>	Committee Referral: <i>JDC</i>	Date: <i>3/20/25</i>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" 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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				/
CHANG, Stanley	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	/			
AWA, Brenton			/	
TOTAL	<i>3</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
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="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> Distribution: File with Committee Report </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Original Yellow Clerk's Office </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Pink Drafting Agency </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes