

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

195

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 491  
H.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 491 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAND LEASES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the State from leasing any public lands, or extending the lease of any public lands, to any individual, corporation, or federal agency that is not in good standing with the State or that has not met all financial, contractual, and legal obligations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; The Queens Court; Kai Law, LLC; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Kupuna for the Moopuna; Ka Lahui Hawai'i; Kuleana Ka 'Aina; Greenpeace Hawaii; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that this measure upholds responsible stewardship by prohibiting the leasing or renewal of public lands to entities not in good standing and providing a framework for

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enforcing compliance, thereby ensuring that public resources are managed in a fair, lawful, and sustainable manner.

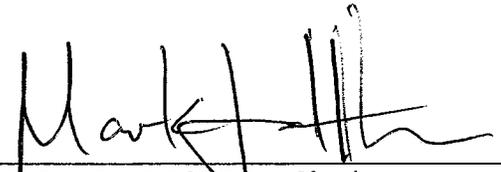
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that no lease of public lands, or extension of the lease of any public lands, shall be to individuals, corporations, or federal agencies that have been found to be in violation of federal or state laws aimed at protecting the environment, instead of convicted of a crime;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider whether to expand the vendor compliance reporting requirement to include a method of reporting outstanding debts to other agencies.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 491, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 491, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

  
MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

*HSCE 195*

Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 491</b>	Committee Referral: <b>WAL, JHA, FIN</b>	Date: <b>2/4/2025</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" 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)				
WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)	✓			
2. LAMOSAO, Rachele F. (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco	✓			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
7. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				