

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1236

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 918
H.D. 2
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 Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 918, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LABELING,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish labeling requirements for certain premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes; and
- (2) Require certain manufacturers of covered products to submit for approval their "DO NOT FLUSH" label notices and symbols to the United States Environmental Protection Agency by January 1, 2026.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and three individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.



Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Health, Household & Commercial Products Association, and Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry.

Your Committees find that disposable wipes are a significant and growing problem for wastewater treatment facilities in the State. Your Committees further find that despite being labeled as "flushable" or "disposable", many wipe products do not break down as easily as toilet paper, leading to clogs and significant damage to plumbing systems or sewer infrastructure. By imposing labeling standards and requirements on manufacturers of disposable wipes, this measure minimizes the frequency and severity of wastewater equipment blockages and protects the State's wastewater infrastructure.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Extending the timeframe by which certain covered product manufacturers' symbol and label notice approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency shall be in use, from six months to eighteen months after the approval;
- (2) Inserting a new section to appropriate an unspecified amount for the fiscal biennium for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions within the Department of Health for inspection and enforcement and education and outreach;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) 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 Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 918, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 918, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be



referred to your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Health and Human
Services and Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 918 HD2	HHS/AEN, CPN/WAM	3/12/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)		X		
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton			X	
TOTAL	3	1	1	
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's 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