

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

893

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

**FEB 27**

RE: H.B. No. 979  
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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 979, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO SUMMARY POSSESSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require that a current general excise tax license number for any rental income be filed with the complaint to the court for summary possession proceedings; and
- (2) Require the Judiciary to submit an annual list of certain information regarding summary possession cases to the Department of Taxation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary; Department of Taxation; and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that some landlords currently rent properties without proper registration, avoiding tax obligations while still utilizing the legal system to evict tenants. This

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measure seeks to close that loophole by requiring landlords to present a valid general excise tax license before initiating summary possession proceedings for unpaid rent, preventing landlords from taking advantage of state resources while failing to meet their own financial responsibilities.

Your Committee recommends this measure be effective on July 1, 2026, to provide time for the Department of Taxation to implement the requirements of this measure.

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. 979, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



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

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 979 HD 1	<b>Committee Referral:</b> CPC, JHA	<b>Date:</b> 02/19/2025		
<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>	9	1	0	1
<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> _____				
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