

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1918

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 16 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 128  
H.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 Water and Land, to which was referred  
H.C.R. No. 128, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S  
OBLIGATION TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ITS PEOPLE  
BY RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF FRESHWATER IN MAINTAINING  
HEALTHY NEARSHORE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to reaffirm the  
State's obligation to uphold the constitutional rights of its  
people by recognizing the critical role of freshwater in  
maintaining healthy nearshore marine ecosystems.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Sierra Club of  
Hawai'i, Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea, Marine Advocates Collaborating for  
Sustainable Aquatic Life through Actions & Discipline, Kua'āina Ulu  
'Auamo, Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that freshwater in the nearshore marine  
ecosystem is essential to the health and abundance of the State's  
nearshore waters. Your Committee further finds that certain  
alterations to freshwater sources damage nearshore marine  
habitats, causing coral bleaching, invasive algal blooms, loss of  
biodiversity, and loss of Native Hawaiian cultural resources.  
Your Committee also finds that it is imperative to protect and



restore freshwater flows to ensure the perpetuation of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices and long-term health and resilience of the State's nearshore marine ecosystems. This measure will encourage the protection and restoration of freshwater flows to nearshore marine ecosystems.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 128, H.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

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

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
 Committee on Water and Land  
 WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HCR 128, HD 1	WTL	4/11/25		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes