STAND. COM. REP. NO. (382

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 03 , 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 199 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 Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 199 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE TO PRIORITIZE THE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL WETLANDS AND ANCHIALINE POOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife to prioritize the restoration and protection of additional wetlands and anchialine pools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Kihei Community Association; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that wetlands are a vital part of Hawaii's environment and ecosystem, serving as natural filters for stream, storm, and urban runoff and providing natural habitats for flora, fauna, and endangered species. Your Committee further finds that anchialine pools are aquatic ecosystems that are home to rare, endangered species and support coral reef and ocean

health. This measure encourages the protection and environmental health of wetlands and anchialine pools in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, not its Division of Forestry and Wildlife, is urged to prioritize the restoration and protection of additional wetlands;
- (2) Clarifying that the Division of Aquatic Resources, rather than the Division of Agricultural Resources, of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to apply protective policies afforded to wetlands to the State's anchialine pools;
- (3) Clarifying that the County of Maui is requested to ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands in Kihei, Maui, is prioritized over development concerns;
- (4) Amending the list of recipients of certified copies of this measure;
- (5) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 199, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 199, H.D. 1.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

NICOLE E. LOVEN, Chair

## State of Hawaii



## Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: HCR199	Committee Referral: EEP	Date:	111125	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	V			
i Mile. Prii Viladie f				
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	V			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	<b>√</b>			
		<del>- 13                                   </del>		
4. KUSCH, Matthias		SPACE SEARCH SECTION S	accopylings in the control of the co	***************************************
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5. QUINLAN, Sean	Talefin and the same of the sa		Difference of the second	
mam - 12	1 1			
TOTAL (5)	4			1
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				