

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

901

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 109
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.
No. 109, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require that the
Hawaiian version of a law be held binding if the law in question
was originally drafted in Hawaiian and meets certain criteria.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and two
individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this
measure from two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that at the Constitutional Convention of
Hawai'i of 1978, the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs proposed the
constitutional amendment that is now enshrined in article XV,
section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution, which establishes
Hawaiian as an official language of the State. The Committee felt
it necessary to include this amendment in the Constitution "to
give full recognition and honor the rich cultural inheritance that



Hawaiians have given to all ethnic groups of the State". This measure will further honor the cultural and historical significance of 'ōlelo Hawai'i and preserve the intent of those who drafted laws during the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the territorial era, and beyond.

Your Committee notes that adding similar language to this measure providing that the Hawaiian version of a law originally drafted in English that has been amended, codified, recodified, or enacted in Hawaiian shall be binding will uphold the status of 'ōlelo Hawai'i as a co-official language and ensure that the intent of the legislators at the time that a law was most recently adopted, whether it be adopted in English or Hawaiian, is not lost due to translation.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language providing that the Hawaiian version of a law originally drafted in English that has been amended, codified, recodified, or enacted in Hawaiian shall be binding; and
- (2) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 109, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 109, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 109, SD 1</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HWN, JDC</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/19/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				/
CHANG, Stanley	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	/			
AWA, Brenton	/			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes