

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1610  
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 Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 1610 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OHANA ZONES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Ohana Zones Program as a permanent program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions;
- (2) Exempt Ohana Zones projects from general excise taxes;
- (3) Require annual reports to the Legislature; and
- (4) Appropriate funds.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; Kaua'i County Housing Agency; and CARES, Community Advocacy Research Education Services.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.



Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services, Department of Taxation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committees find that the development of permanent housing takes time, and in the meantime, people experiencing homelessness will continue to live unsheltered and without adequate and meaningful access to social services. Your Committees further find that the Ohana Zones Pilot Program established by Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, has been effective at serving its intended purpose of providing housing and critical services to the State's homeless population. Noting the success of the Program to date, your Committees believe that the Program should be made permanent. This measure codifies the Ohana Zones Program to ensure continued support to the homeless population of the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to clarify that "ohana zone" includes a kauhale;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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 Housing that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1610, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1610, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



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



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STANLEY CHANG, Chair



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JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**HHS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1610</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HHS/HOU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/7/25</b>		
<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
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
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

