

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

725

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1651
S.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 Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 1651, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require board packets to be posted no later than 7:45 a.m. on the third business day before a public meeting; and
- (2) Require boards to provide notice to persons requesting notification of meetings at the time the board packet is made available for public inspection.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Public First Law Center and two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services; Office of Information Practices; Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood; Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission; and Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.



Your Committee finds that board meetings provide the public with an opportunity to engage in community matters, offer insight, and interact with government officials. While board meetings are open to the public, most board meeting packets are not publicly available until a short time before the board meeting begins, leaving community members with little time to understand the topics to be discussed, evaluate and examine documents, and formulate informed testimony. Therefore, this measure ensures greater participation by community members through the timely posting of board packets.

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. 1651, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1651, SD 1	GVO, JDC	2/20/25		
<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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes