

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2018

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 903  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred S.B. No. 903, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the hiring of necessary staff and purchase of equipment and professional services on behalf of the Public Land Trust Working Group.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals.

Prior to the hearing on this measure, your Committee posted and made available for public review a proposed H.D. 2, which:

- (1) Deletes the appropriation to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- (2) Amends the membership and responsibilities of the Working Group, with the responsibilities to include accounting for all ceded lands and income and proceeds from the public land trust and determining the Office of

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Hawaiian Affairs' annual pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust;

- (3) Requires the Working Group to submit reports to the Legislature;
- (4) By October 1, 2027, requires the State, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and other applicable parties to begin preliminary negotiations regarding the final draft settlement of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust;
- (5) Appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to the Legislative Reference Bureau to retain independent third-party professionals for the purposes of Act 226, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, subject to matching funds from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
- (6) Makes the measure effective upon its approval, with the appropriation effective on July 1, 2025.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the proposed H.D. 2 from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Your Committee received comments on the proposed H.D. 2 from the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Your Committee notes that some of the parties expressed interest that the Public Land Trust Working Group determine:

- (1) The process of calculating the total amount owed to clear all future claims of Office of Hawaiian Affairs against the State; and
- (2) A process by which the Office of Hawaiian Affairs may negotiate a master settlement with the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adopting the proposed H.D. 2 and further amending the measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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 Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 903, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 903, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

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



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KYLE T. YAMASHITA, Chair



