

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1737

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 13 2021

RE: H.C.R. No. 163
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred
H.C.R. No. 163, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES TO ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM WATER LEASE WITH
WAI'OLI VALLEY TARO HUI FOR THE HUI'S EXISTING USE OF WATER
FROM WAI'OLI STREAM VIA DIRECT NEGOTIATION, UPON COMPLETION
OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Board of Land and Natural Resources to enter into a long-term
water lease with the Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui for their existing use
of water from Wai'oli Stream via direct negotiation, upon
completion of the environmental impact statement process.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of
Hawaiian Affairs, Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui, Hanalei Watershed Hui,
National Tropical Botanical Garden, one member of the Kaua'i County
Council, and twenty-four individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui (Hui)
has been working diligently to maintain and perpetuate the
historic mānowai (traditional instream diversion structure) and
'auwai (irrigation ditch) in Wai'oli, Kaua'i and its finite natural

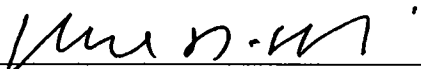


and cultural resources. Your Committee further finds that subjecting the Hui to competition at a public auction for a water lease is concerning, due to their limited financial resources. This measure would allow the Hui to negotiate directly with the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a water lease that would promote its traditional practice of lo'i kalo (taro cultivation) and expand community-based, cultural and agricultural education.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 163, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary, in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 163, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,



LORRAINE R. INOUYE, Chair



