

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3242

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2022

RE: H.B. No. 2256
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Department of Environmental Protection on July 1, 2026;
- (2) Create a Department of Environmental Protection Working Group to address the logistics of establishing a Department of Environmental Protection; and
- (3) Require the Department of Environmental Protection Working Group to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2025 Regular Session.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Environmental Advisory Council, Department of Health, Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu, Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one



individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i State Energy Office; and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Your Committee finds that, while most states have an executive-level department dedicated to environmental protection, Hawaii does not. An executive-level Department of Environmental Protection would allow for greater coordination in addressing key environmental issues, which will only grow in importance as climate changes accelerates. Additionally, a Department of Environmental Protection will increase the efficiency and timeliness of the State in responding to environmental threats. This measure establishes a Department of Environmental Protection on July 1, 2026, and creates a working group to ensure effective implementation of a Department of Environmental Protection.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adding the following to the working group:

- (1) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;
- (2) A representative of the Environmental Advisory Council;
and
- (3) A representative of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,




MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2256 HD1	AEN, WAM	03/14/22		
<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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
ACASIO, Laura	/			
RHOADS, Karl	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt				/
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes