

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3504

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2022

RE: H.B. No. 2256  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,  
to which was referred H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, S.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 (Working Group) to address the logistics required  
for the State to establish a Department of Environmental  
Protection; and
- (3) Require the 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 State Environmental Advisory Council, City and County of  
Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Environmental Caucus of the  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition,  
Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay, WAI:  
Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, Hawaii Association for



Marine Education and Research, Coral Reef Alliance, and five individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health, Hawaii State Energy Office, and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Your Committee finds that the State's current environmental protection functions are scattered across various executive departments and agencies. Your Committee believes that the establishment of an executive-level Department of Environmental Protection would allow the State to better manage and develop its projects that are dedicated to implement the environmental policy goals enacted by the Legislature.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

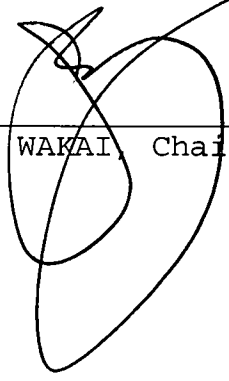
- (1) Removing language regarding the Department of Environmental Protection Working Group;
- (2) Creating:
  - (A) The position of Director of Environmental Protection; and
  - (B) A Board of Environmental Protection to which the Director of Environmental Protection shall report;
- (3) Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to manage energy and develop projects that protect the environment of the State;
- (4) Transferring the Hawaii State Energy Office into a division within the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- (5) 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 Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended



herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

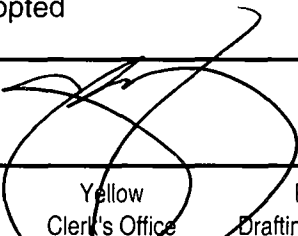
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GLENN WAKAI, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**  
**EET**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 2256 HDI SDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN, EET, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/23/22</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
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E. (VC)	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil		✓		
FEVELLA, Kurt		✓		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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