STAND. COM. REP. NO. 189 -24

Honolulu, Hawaii

## FEB 0 8 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2626 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 2626 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FISHPONDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and appropriate funds for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to further streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Joseph & Josephines LLC; Wahine Maoli Po'o E Ola Kakou Hawai'i; Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition; Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; The Nature Conservancy; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that traditional Hawaiian fishponds, or loko i'a, play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, are essential components of traditional food systems in Hawaii, and provide food security and community resilience. This measure will ensure that loko i'a are used for appropriate purposes by expanding certain



standards an applicant must satisfy prior to being approved for a lease.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Deleting its purpose section;

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- (2) Deleting language that would have required the Board of Land and Natural Resources to implement a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to streamline the leasing process for government-owned Hawaiian fishponds and all its related language;
- (3) Specifying certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a governmentowned fishpond;
- (4) Deleting the appropriation to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement;
- (5) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) 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 Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2626, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2626, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

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

LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature



## Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2626		Committee Referral: WAL, JHA, FIN		Date: 02/06/2024	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold    Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
WAL Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ICHIYAMA, Linda	(C)	$\checkmark$			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (N					
3. CHUN, Cory M.					
4. GANADEN, Sonny					
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				water and the second	
6. MIZUNO, May Besa	rio				
7. MORIKAWA, Dee					
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	n na serie de la companya de la comp La companya de la comp				
9. SOUZA, Kanani					
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TOTAL	(9)	9			
The recommendation is:  Adopted  Not Adopted    If joint referral,					
committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Commutee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					