

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2023

RE: S.B. No. 261
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 261 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
ACT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide to beneficiaries of
the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, monthly
accountability reports that contain certain information on leases
and fiscal matters.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations and
three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this
measure from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Hui Kako'o
'Āina Ho'opulapula.

Your Committee finds that transparency in government is of
the utmost importance. Transparency promotes accountability and
provides information to citizens about what their government is
doing. Your Committee further finds that the Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands is a government agency established and
governed by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended.
The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands serves native Hawaiian
beneficiaries and manages an extensive land trust for their



benefit. Therefore, this measure promotes transparency by requiring the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide quarterly accountability reports to beneficiaries within fifteen days following the end of each quarter.

Your Committee also notes the testimony of Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'opulapula, expressing concerns that the measure would require the disclosure of land lease transactions exchanged or sold between beneficiaries, which are personal and unrelated to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language that narrows the required disclosure of land lease transactions to those exchanged or sold between beneficiaries and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and
- (2) 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 Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 261, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 261, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 261	Committee Referral: HWN, WAM	Date: 01-31-2023
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt (VC)	X			
IHARA, Jr., Les				X
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
TOTAL	4	-	-	1

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes