

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

294

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

FEB 10

RE: H.B. No. 309  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
H.B. No. 309, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FISHPONDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a working group  
within the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program to develop an  
inventory of state-owned fishponds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of  
Agriculture; University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program;  
Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Office  
of the Mayor of the County of Maui; Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; Sierra  
Club of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Kauai  
Climate Action Coalition; Malama Kaua'i; Hawai'i Farmers Union  
United; Historic Hawai'i Foundation; Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task  
Force; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawai'i Food+ Policy;  
Pacific Whale Foundation; Mālama Pa'akea o Waimalau; Environmental  
Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and numerous  
individuals.

Your Committee finds that the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant  
College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) has supported the restoration

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of loko i'a and the perpetuation of loko i'a practice for decades as part of its mission to improve understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources. Your Committee further finds that the Hawai'i Sea Grant's expertise and partnerships with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other partners involved in the restoration, preservation, and perpetuation of Hawaiian fishponds will be of great value in developing an inventory of state-owned fishponds.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 309, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB309 HD1	<b>Committee Referral:</b> WAL, HED, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 02.05.2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
9. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
11. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	11			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size:small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				