

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1626

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27, 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 174
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 Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 174 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO EXAMINE THE AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF AINA-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS OFFERED TO YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE LEGAL SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Human Services' Office of Youth Services and Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council to examine the availability and utilization of aina-based learning programs offered to youth in the juvenile legal system.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender; Mālama Mākua; Nā 'Ōpio Waiwai, Youth Council of 'Ekolu Mea Nui; Debt Free Justice Hawai'i; 'Ekolu Mea Nui; and Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that youth involved in the juvenile justice system often face financial hardships due to court-imposed fees, fines, and restitution. While community service is frequently ordered in lieu of financial penalties, existing opportunities often lack meaningful cultural or rehabilitative

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components, limiting their impact on youth development and reducing their effectiveness in preventing recidivism. This measure requests the Department of Human Services' Office of Youth Services and Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council to examine the availability and utilization of aina-based learning programs as an alternative for youth in the juvenile legal system to promote cultural reconnection, foster rehabilitation, and strengthen youth ties to their land, families, and communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 174, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 174, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness,



LISA MARTEN, Chair



