

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1718

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 , 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 197

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 197 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE AMENDED,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to convene a working group to clarify the purpose of the Commission on Water Resource Management and determine whether the leadership and composition of the Commission should be amended.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) plays a crucial role in overseeing and managing the State's water resources. Your Committee further finds that in 1994, the Review Commission on the State Water Code submitted recommendations that proposed changes to the Commission's legal and organizational framework and proposed a

2025-2945 HCR197 HSCR HMSO



follow-up review to take place ten years after the adoption of its recommendations; however, the recommended follow-up review was not conducted. Given the urgent need to protect and properly steward the State's water resources, your Committee believes that a review of the Commission's purpose and its leadership structure and board composition is warranted to ensure effective and efficient water resource management.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 197 and recommends its adoption.

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


MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



