

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1748

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 109
S.D. 2
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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 109, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require that the Hawaiian version of a law be held binding if the law in question was either:

- (1) Originally drafted in Hawaiian and then translated into English and the law has not been later amended, codified, recodified, or reenacted in English; or
- (2) Originally drafted in English and subsequently amended, codified, recodified, or reenacted in Hawaiian.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary; Department of the Attorney General; and two individuals.

2025-2526 SB109 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that in 2007, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and this measure would contribute to the growing international movement for the protection of the rights of the world's indigenous peoples.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Reverting to the S.D. 1 version of this measure, which required that the Hawaiian version of a law be held binding if the law in question was originally drafted in Hawaiian and meets certain criteria;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 109, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 109, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



