STAND. COM. REP. NO. 698

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 1 8 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1545

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 1545 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NEPOTISM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to repeal language in the State's Code of Ethics that exempts the Legislative Branch from prohibitions against nepotism in public employment.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from five individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission.

Your Committee finds that while existing law prohibits most state employees from hiring or supervising relatives or awarding contracts to businesses owned by relatives or household members, these provisions do not currently extend to employees of the Legislature. Your Committee believes that recognizing the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability, and fairness in government operations, including within its own ranks, is crucial to preserving public trust. This measure will reaffirm the Legislature's commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity and foster public trust in government operations by subjecting legislative employees to the same ethical standards as other state employees.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1545 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
SB 1545	JDC			2/7/25	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)					
GABBARD, Mike (VC)					
CHANG, Stanley		V//			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.					
AWA, Brenton		V			
		-			
					• -
					
TOTAL	/	5)	
Recommendation:					
Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original File with Committee Re					

^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes