

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1571
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Economic Development and Tourism and Labor and Technology, to which was referred S.B. No. 1571 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOURISM,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt all positions within the Hawaii Tourism Authority from the State's Civil Service Law;
- (2) Provide that the powers described in section 201B-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be granted to the Hawaii Tourism Authority except as otherwise provided by law;
- (3) Amend the definition of "convention center facility" for purposes of chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (4) Amend the eligibility requirements to serve on the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and five individuals.



Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Your Committees find that the Hawaii Tourism Authority was established in 1998 to serve as the State's lead agency supporting tourism, the State's largest industry. Your Committees find that this measure by exempting all positions within the Hawaii Tourism Authority from the State's Civil Service Law, will enable the Authority to hire best-qualified professionals. Your Committees further find that this measure will allow the Authority to more effectively and strategically manage Hawaii's tourism in a sustainable manner, consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community values, and visitor industry needs.

Your Committees note the concerns raised during the hearing on this measure regarding the proposed repeal of the prohibition against individuals who served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB Board) from serving on the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors until at least two years after the termination of the individual's service on the HVCB, as doing so would negate the discussions held on the matter during prior legislative sessions. Your Committees believe this conversation merits further consideration and respectfully requests that subsequent Committees to which this measure is referred examine the issues.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Economic Development and Tourism and Labor and Technology that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1571, as amended



herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Economic
Development and Tourism and
Labor and Technology,


HENRY G. C. AQUINO, Chair


LYNN DECOITE, Chair




Record of Votes
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
EDT

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor and Technology
LBT

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB1511</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">EDT/LBT, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/6/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	x			
LEE, Chris (VC)	x			
IHARA, Jr., Les				x
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	x			
FEVELLA, Kurt	x		x	x
			a	
TOTAL	3		1	1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; text-align: center;">  </div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes