STAND. COM. REP. NO. 542

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2025

RE: S.B. No. 984 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 Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 984 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require a landowner in possession of ten thousand or more acres to be liable for damages and fines arising from runoff originating on the land and entering into state waters or onto state lands; and
- (2) Require the Department of Health to adopt rules.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Hawai'i Food + Policy, Hawai'i Reef Ocean Coalition, and eight individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawaii Farm Bureau; and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committees find that agricultural water pollution has devastating effects on the environment. Climate change fuels extreme rainfall in the State, increasing runoff and polluting vital coastal waters. The documented damage to Kauai and Molokai reefs underscores the urgent need for action.

Your Committees find that this measure appropriately addresses the destructive effects of runoff by establishing civil liability for large landowners whose operations contribute to this problem. Accountability is crucial, and this measure focuses on those with the largest potential impact on our coastal waters, marine ecosystems, and food systems.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 984, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 984, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services,

MIKE GABBARD, Chair

JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

## The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

## Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*  SB 984	Committee Referral: Date:  AEN/HHS, JDC 217/25							
SB 984   AEN/HHS, JDC   217/25								
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			
GABBARD, Mike (C)		X						
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)								
DECOITE, Lynn								
RHOADS, Karl		X						
AWA, Brenton		$\times$						
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TOTAL		ls	0	0	0			
Recommendation:  Adopted  Not Adopted								
Chair's or Designee's Signature:								
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

## The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

## Record of Votes Committee on Health and Human Services HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral: Date:								
SB 984	AEN	/HHS	TDC	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				
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy									
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)									
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.									
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett									
FEVELLA, Kurt									
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Recommendation:  Adopted Not Adopted									
Chair's or Designee's Signature:									
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