

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 984  
S.D. 2

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. 984, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs 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 as necessary for the purposes of this provision.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, Hawai'i Food+ Policy, and one individual.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Ulupalakua Ranch; and one individual.

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

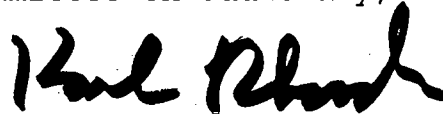


Your Committee finds that in addition to the immediate damage caused by extreme rain events caused by climate change, there has been an increased threat of pollution to both groundwater and coastal water. Your Committee further finds that the increased rate of runoff from extreme rain events has caused severe damage to the State's reefs, coastal ecosystems, and ocean wildlife populations. By holding large landowners accountable to damaging runoff, this measure will protect state waters and lands and assist in the State's climate change mitigation efforts.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion.

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. 984, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 984, S.D. 2.

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



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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 984, SDI	AEN/HHS, JDC	2/26/25		
<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;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.		✓		
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	1	—	1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original</div> <div>Yellow</div> <div>Pink</div> <div>Goldenrod</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div>File with Committee Report</div> <div>Clerk's Office</div> <div>Drafting Agency</div> <div>Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes