

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2025

RE: S.R. No. 137

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred  
S.R. No. 137 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME  
LANDS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WATER ACCESS PILOT PROJECT  
DEMONSTRATING THE KOHALA REGION'S CAPACITY FOR A POTABLE  
WATER SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to develop and implement a water  
access pilot project demonstrating the Kohala region's capacity  
for a potable water system.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this  
measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that increased access to safe drinking  
water and water for agricultural use is a matter of great  
importance to the State, and particularly to rural island  
communities. Your Committee further finds that the Kohala region  
on Hawaii Island, which is owned by the Department of Hawaiian  
Home Lands, is an ideal location for the construction of a water  
pump storage hydroelectric facility, which would provide a source  
of potable water, water for irrigation, and reduce energy costs in



the region. Accordingly, this measure requests the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to implement a water access pilot project to demonstrate that the Kohala mountains are an appropriate site for a new potable water system to serve the people of the area.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 137 and recommends its adoption.

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

  
HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair



