

Honolulu, Hawaii  
**FEB 05**, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1650  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 1650 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS,"  
begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to remove proposed actions  
within historic sites and the Waikiki Special District from the  
requirement for environmental assessments under section 343-5,  
Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS; Hawai'i YIMBY; United  
Chinese Society of Hawaii; and one individual. Your Committee  
received testimony in opposition to this measure from The Outdoor  
Circle; Truth for the People Moku O Keawe; and numerous  
individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure  
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Office of  
Planning and Sustainable Development; and Office of Hawaiian  
Affairs.

Your Committee finds that the City and County of Honolulu has  
adopted ordinances and other requirements for permitting of  
certain projects within the Waikiki Special District. Your  
Committee further finds that it is redundant and unnecessary to  
require all proposals for any use within the Waikiki Special



District to undergo an environmental assessment in addition to the City's requirements. Accordingly, this measure removes the requirement for environmental assessments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Reinstating the environmental assessment requirement for actions that propose any use within a historic site;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1650, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1650, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy &  
Environmental Protection,

  
NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



HSCR 29-26

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 1650</b>		Committee Referral: <b>EEP, WAL, FIN</b>		Date: <b>2/3/26</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
EEP Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)		✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)		✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.		✓			
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin		✓			
5. KUSCH, Matthias		✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean		✓			
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren		✓			
TOTAL (7)		7			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>Amy Perruso</i></u>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					