STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3658

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 9 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2099

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 2099 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VACANCIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the processes for addressing party candidate and state senator vacancies.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Elections and one individual.

Your Committee finds that meeting the requirements established by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting and its state counterpart involves significant preparation on the part of the Office of Elections. Additionally, the timeline for producing the ballot may be further affected by challenges and objections that may arise after candidate filing deadlines or primary election results that the Office of Elections is obligated to address. While existing law generally accounts for these factors, it does not do so for state senate elections. This measure will clarify and align timelines to allow the Office of Elections sufficient time to prepare ballots in compliance with state and federal election requirements.

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 H.B. No. 2099, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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

Committee on Judiciary,

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:
HB 2099	JDC	3/17/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☑ Pass, unamended 2312 ☐ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26