

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3377**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2309
H.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2309, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
ACT, 1920,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the
Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, to include
siblings' children as qualifying relatives of lessees for the
purposes of lease transfer and lease successorship, in the same
manner currently allowed for spouses, children, grandchildren, and
siblings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian
Affairs, and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that under existing law, only certain
relatives may qualify for lease successorship or transfer of
Hawaiian Home Lands leases. Allowing nieces and nephews to
succeed to leases reduces lease cancellations due to technical
heir limitations, preserves improvements built over generations,
and advances the rehabilitative purposes of the Hawaiian Homes
Commission Act of 1920, as amended, which was passed to restore
native Hawaiians to the land and promote self-sufficiency.
Ensuring generational continuity of homestead leases is central to



that purpose. This measure would expand eligible successorship to reflect the lived reality of Hawaiian ohana structures, where extended family members often serve as caregivers and household anchors, and uphold the purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2309, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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

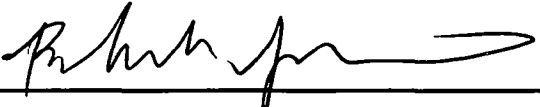


HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2309 HD 1	HWN, JDC	03-24-2024		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (C)	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes