

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2433
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. 2433, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require that
priority be given to the language of a law that aligns with the
intent of the Legislature if there is a difference between the
English and Hawaiian versions of the law that is material to its
interpretation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, University of
Hawai'i at Hilo, and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that other jurisdictions that operate
within bilingual legal frameworks give equal authority to statutes
written in more than one language and require courts to resolve
discrepancies by identifying the meaning that best reflects
legislative intent. Aligning the State's approach to bilingual
statutes with existing models in other jurisdictions, as this
measure does, would provide a consistent and administrable
standard, affirm the State's constitutional mandate to promote
'Ōlelo Hawai'i, ensure that laws in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i are treated with
equal dignity, avoid symbolic recognition without practical



effect, and support both past and future bilingual drafting initiatives.

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. 2433, 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 2433, 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				✓
KEOHOKALOLE, 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