STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2883

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2325
S.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 Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2325 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUVENILE OFFENDERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

(1) Authorize courts to modify sentences imposed on juvenile offenders if certain conditions are met and the court finds that the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or the community and the modification is in the interests of justice after considering certain factors; and

(2) Establish procedures, provide for hearings and representation by counsel, and authorize appellate review.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Office of the Public Defender, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ACLU Hawai'i, Human Rights for Kids, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that juveniles in the criminal justice system are often immature, impulsive, and influenced by negative

peers and family members. Additionally, these juvenile offenders may be in foster care without strong or supportive parental guidance and may be victims of horrific crimes that may include physical and sexual abuse. Your Committee further finds that hope is a powerful motivation for rehabilitation and positive outcomes because individuals are incentivized when presented with an opportunity to prove that they have learned from their mistakes, take positive steps to improve their attitudes and understanding, and demonstrate real change. This measure will establish a second-look sentencing mechanism to allow courts to recognize demonstrated maturity and ability for rehabilitation and reintegration for certain juvenile offenders.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Requiring a defendant to have served not less than twelve years, rather than fifteen years, to be eligible for a reduced term of imprisonment where the defendant was convicted as an adult for an offense committed and completed before the defendant attained eighteen years of age;

(2) Requiring the period of supervised release to be administered in the manner of parole supervision pursuant to part IV of chapter 706, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

(3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 2325, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2325, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
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:
SB 2325	JDC	2/13/26

☐ 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	3	—	—	2

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