

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3729

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1716
H.D. 1
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 H.B. No. 1716, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a process by which any political party continuously listed on the general election ballot for eight or more years shall be deemed continuously qualified for ballot placement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Green Party of Hawai'i, Our Revolution Hawaii, and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the on individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that existing law requires political parties to repeatedly petition to retain ballot access, despite uninterrupted ballot qualification over extended periods, demonstrating durable voter support, organizational stability, and ongoing compliance with election laws. This measure attempts to



reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on political parties and the State and ensure consistent, predictable, and nondiscriminatory ballot access in Hawaii elections.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have established a process, requirements, and exemptions for a political party to be deemed continuously qualified for ballot placement under certain conditions and clarified the role and authority of the Chief Election Officer and Office of Elections;
- (2) Reducing the number of general election cycles from three to two for a political party to be deemed continuously qualified for ballot placement;
- (3) Making conforming amendments;
- (4) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (5) Inserting an effective date of March 22, 2075, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment 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 H.B. No. 1716, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1716, H.D. 1, 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.:* HB 1716 HD1	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 3/17/26		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> 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: <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