

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2099

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, 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 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 three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that existing statutory deadlines governing party candidate and state senate vacancies do not always align with the practical realities of ballot preparation, candidate certification, and election administration.

Your Committee further finds that clarifying and adjusting vacancy timelines will promote orderly elections, ensure voters are presented with complete and accurate ballots to the extent reasonably possible, and reduce administrative uncertainty for election officials while preserving established processes for filling vacancies and maintaining continuity of representation.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs 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 &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HBOR 895-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

| Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2099 | Committee Referral: JHA | Date: 2/19/2026 | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure. | | | | |
| The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) | | | | |
| JHA Members | Ayes | Ayes (WR) | Nays | Excused |
| 1. TARNAS, David A. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| 2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| 3. BELATTI, Della Au | ✓ | | | |
| 4. COCHRAN, Elle | ✓ | | | |
| 5. HASHEM, Mark J. | ✓ | | | |
| 6. KAHALOA, Kirstin | ✓ | | | |
| 7. SAYAMA, Jackson D. | ✓ | | | |
| 8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg | ✓ | | | |
| 9. GARCIA, Diamond | | ✓ | | |
| 10. SHIMIZU, Garner M. | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL (10) | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> <input type="checkbox"/> committee acronym(s) </div> | | | | |
| Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ | | | | |
| Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO | | | | |