

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3103

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2279
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 Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2279, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT ORDERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the expungement orders law to reflect that a person who is arrested for or charged with a crime but convicted of a violation is eligible for an expungement of their arrest record for that incident.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Community Alliance on Prisons, ACLU Hawai'i, and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling in *Barker v. Young*, 153 Haw. 144 (2023), clarified that individuals initially arrested for or charged with a felony, misdemeanor, or petty misdemeanor but later convicted of a violation are eligible for an expungement of their arrest records. Because of the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision, many individuals who previously faced barriers to housing and employment were able to obtain an expungement of their arrest records. This measure aligns state law with the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision to



ensure that individuals have sufficient recourse when they are only convicted of a violation.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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 Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2279, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2279, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,




CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB2279 HD1	Committee Referral: PSM, JDC	Date: 3/16/26		
<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
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	✓			
LEE, Chris (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.				✓
INOUE, Lorraine R.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha				✓
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"></div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes