

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3882**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 22 2026

RE: H.C.R. No. 178
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 Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 178, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PRIORITIZE ISSUING A SET-ASIDE TO THE COUNTY OF MAUI THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TRUST WATER RESOURCES IN EAST MAUI,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to prioritize issuing a set-aside to the County of Maui through an executive order by the Governor to support the management of public trust water resources in East Maui.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the East Maui Water Authority and seven individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources

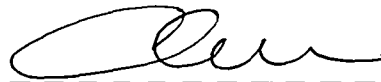
Your Committee finds that the County of Maui, like all government entities subject to the Hawaii State Constitution, must uphold the public trust doctrine, which obliges the government to "protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people". Currently, the demand for water



in the County of Maui, trending higher due to growth in population and corresponding agricultural needs, threatens to exceed the supply of water for East Maui, where drought conditions have substantially depleted stream water resources. Aligning with the public trust doctrine, this measure will improve access and availability of water for East Maui residents by requesting the transfer of control over the region to suitable and adept county agencies.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 178, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,




CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HCR 178 HD1	WLA, WAM	04/17/2024		
<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
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R. (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley				✓
LAMOSAO, Rachele	✓			
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