

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02, 2026

RE: H.C.R. NO. 179

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 179 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE 'AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW ITS ADOPTED RULES OF PRACTICE, FULFILL ITS STATUTORY DUTIES, INCLUDING COMPLYING WITH THE SUNSHINE LAW, CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND ESTABLISH POLICIES TO ASSURE CONSISTENT STANDARDS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee to follow its adopted rules of practice; fulfill its statutory duties, including complying with the Sunshine Law; conduct a performance review of its Executive Director; and establish policies to ensure consistent standards of administrative and managerial accountability.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Moana Ohana; Marine Advocates Collaborating for Sustainable Aquatic Life through Action and Discipline; Ko'olau Foundation; and six individuals.

Your Committee finds that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee receives annual state funding of approximately \$286,300 through the Department of Land and Natural Resources and is subject to public accountability and transparency standards. Your Committee



further finds that as a public advisory committee, the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee must adhere to the Sunshine Law, which requires deliberations and decision-making to occur in properly noticed public meetings. Your Committee also finds that concerns have been raised within the Native Hawaiian community regarding the administration, representation, and transparency of the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee and the absence of publicly available agendas, minutes, reports, and other administrative records reducing transparency and hindering public participation and oversight.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 179 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,

for 

MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



