

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 24 2026

RE: H.C.R. No. 33

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 33 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING HAWAI'I COUNTY, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PUKŌ COMMUNITY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, TO COMPLETE THE PUKŌ SEWAGE PROJECT,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to encourage Hawai'i County, in collaboration with the Puakō community, Department of Health, and other stakeholders, to complete the Puakō Sewage Project.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition, Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, Puakō For Reefs, and two individuals.

Your Committees find that the Puakō Reef is experiencing declining live coral population, particularly due to the inadequate processing of wastewater and sewage. The Department of Health has concluded that the construction of sewage systems and conversion of cesspools at Puakō is a priority for the State to protect public health and the environment. Completing the Puakō Sewage Project will require collaboration between the State, County of Hawaii, and other public, private, philanthropic, and



community partners. This measure demonstrates the State's generational investment to enhance coral resiliency, encourage ecological recovery, reduce pollution, and protect the Puakō community.

Your Committees acknowledge the comments raised in the testimony of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo that the University conducts critical research at Puako and that the Marine Science Department is uniquely positioned to provide the data, research, and environmental monitoring essential for the success of the Puako Sewage Project. Your Committees recognize the University's request to be included as a stakeholder and collaborator for the Project. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this matter.

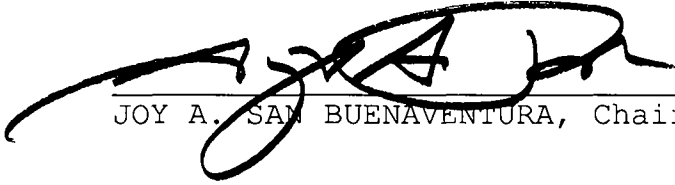
Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding language to include the University of Hawaii at Hilo as a stakeholder and resource for research, environmental monitoring, and technical assistance for the planning and implementation of the Puakō Sewage Project;
- (2) Updating the list of parties entitled to receive certified copies of the measure;
- (3) Amending its title to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 33, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 33, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Health and
Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* HCR 33	Committee Referral: AEN/HHS	Date: 4-17-26		
<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 checked="" 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
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn				✓
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**

