

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1577-26

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 31, 2026

RE: H.R. No. 98

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Culture & Arts, to which was referred H.R. No. 98 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION ENDORSING WAIKIKI AS A WORLD SURFING RESERVE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to endorse Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program; University of Hawai'i Climate Resilience Collaborative; and Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association.

Your Committee finds that Waikiki holds profound cultural, historical, and environmental significance as a center of Native Hawaiian surfing traditions and as a globally recognized destination for wave riding. Waikiki's surf ecosystem supports the State's cultural heritage and its economy, yet faces increasing threats from climate change and environmental degradation. By endorsing Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve, this measure would elevate awareness, strengthen conservation efforts, and support ongoing community-led initiatives to protect this unique coastal resource.

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As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Culture & Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 98 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Culture & Arts,



JEANNE KAPELA, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Culture & Arts

Bill/Resolution No.: HR 98	Committee Referral: CAA, WAL	Date: 3/25/2026
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold
 Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

CAA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAPELA, Jeanne (C)	✓			
2. KONG, Sam Satoru (VC)	✓			
3. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	✓			
4. LEE, Mike				✓
5. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
6. REYES ODA, Julie	✓			
TOTAL (6)	5			1

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: *Samuel S. King*

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