

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2599

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 1301
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 Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and
Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 1301 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish conditions under which archaeological inventory surveys and reconnaissance surveys are required;
- (2) Establish conditions under which archaeological permits may be issued and revoked and the practice of archaeology may be temporarily revoked;
- (3) Modify the composition and operations of island burial councils; and
- (4) Modify procedures upon the inadvertent discovery of burial sites.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and one individual.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from NAIOP Hawaii.



Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Kia'i Iwi Alaka'i.

Your Committees find that due to significant gaps in the existing historic preservation review process, iwi kupuna are often mistreated or handled improperly. Sensitive areas like sandy soil matrices are known to contain Native Hawaiian burials. While the State Historic Preservation Division and the counties have flagged sandy soils as a key factor for archaeological review, application has been inconsistent. Your Committees further find that when an archaeological review is required, it may nevertheless be conducted by a negligent archaeologist. Currently, there is no statutory mechanism to suspend or revoke the licenses of archaeologists who fail to adequately perform their duties or commit historic preservation violations. Consequently, archaeologists who repeatedly violate professional and legal standards are only subject to a fine. This measure will strengthen the historic preservation review process and reinforce the integrity of the archaeological permitting process to improve the treatment of iwi kupuna and reduce inadvertent discoveries through proactive methods.

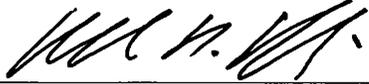
Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (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 records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1301, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1301, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts and
Hawaiian Affairs,



HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair

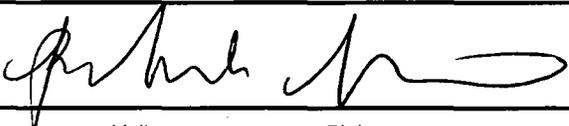


CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1301	Committee Referral: WLA/HWN, JDL	Date: 2/12/2024		
<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 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
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (C)	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
KEOHOKALO, Jarrett	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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