

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3065

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2002
S.D. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2002, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to retain independent counsel;
- (2) Repeal the First Deputy to the Chairperson of CWRM and establish the Executive Director of the CWRM;
- (3) Administratively attach CWRM to the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- (4) Authorize members of CWRM to be eligible to serve as chairperson;
- (5) Require the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director of Health to serve as ex officio voting members who are ineligible to serve as chairperson;



1

- (6) Add one member to the nominating committee for CWRM, to be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- (7) Authorize entities to whom an emergency order is directed to challenge the order under certain conditions;
- (8) Clarify the notification requirements and contents of declarations of water shortages;
- (9) Establish fines; and
- (10) Make conforming amendments.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Free Access Coalition, Shimanchu Wai Protectors, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, Kupuna for the Mo'opuna, Nā Alaka'i o ka 'Ahahui o Hawai'i, Earthjustice, Our Hawai'i, Hanalei Watershed Hui, Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Haiku Community Association, Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition, and sixty-one individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui.

Your Committees find that effective and efficient water resource management requires consistent, experienced, and independent leadership. However, basic governance and administrative structures of the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) do not adequately protect or ensure the Commission's independence. Consequently, the Commission is subject to external political influences that prevent it from performing its critical function of comprehensive water planning and management. This measure will ensure the independence of the Commission to restore public trust in the Commission and allow it



to more effectively and efficiently protect and preserve the State's water supplies.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of March 22, 2075, 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 Judiciary and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2002, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2002, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Ways and Means,

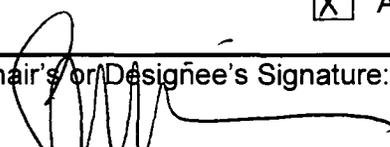

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2002, SD1	Committee Referral: WLA/PSM, JDC/WAM	Date: 03/04/2026		
<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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	13	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