

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2997

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2363

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2363 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COUNTIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the counties to close public lands when necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety, or preserve natural or cultural resources.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the counties oversee and maintain public lands within their jurisdictions for the recreational use of residents and visitors and for the preservation of natural, cultural, and infrastructural resources. Your Committee further finds that county agencies frequently encounter situations such as hazardous conditions and overuse, where immediate closure or restriction of public access to these lands is required to keep the public safe or to preserve cultural sites, fragile ecosystems, and other natural resources. This measure provides the counties with clear statutory authority to take action when necessary to ensure the safety and security of residents and visitors and that



natural, cultural, and other public resources are preserved for future generations.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2363 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

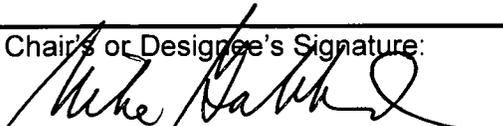


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

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|--|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2363 | Committee Referral: EIG/PSM, JDC | Date: 2/27/26 | | |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| RHOADS, Karl (C) | ✓ | | | |
| GABBARD, Mike (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | ✓ | | | |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. | ✓ | | | |
| AWA, Brenton | | | ✓ | |
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| TOTAL | 4 | — | 1 | — |
| 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