

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2273**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2790

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2790 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN
HOME LANDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for contracted
services for the assessment and inventory of the Molokai
Irrigation System.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Ho'omana Pono, LLC;
Hawai'i Food+ Policy; and one individual.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this
measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that the Molokai Irrigation System
supplies water to a large portion of Molokai farms, supporting
local food production. Your Committee further finds that native
Hawaiian beneficiaries living on Molokai homesteads have requested
Hawaiian Homes Commission and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
staff to assume control of the Molokai Irrigation System and make
land use changes that would allow more families to farm and live
on department lands. Your Committee also finds that an
assessment, inventory, and analysis of the irrigation system will



make the water provided by the irrigation system accessible to homesteads that currently operate without agricultural water.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2790 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,


HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair



