

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3025

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2849
S.D. 2

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. 2849, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, Public First Law Center, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, and four individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one member of the Maui County Council.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that clear and accessible meeting notices are critical to effective public participation. However, many boards provide lengthy "boilerplate" instructions and non-substantive meeting information at the beginning of a meeting notice. While this may frustrate the general population, your



Committee notes that this proves particularly difficult for individuals relying on assistive "screen reading" technology. This measure will reduce barriers to access and ensure that all members of the public can quickly find the information they need.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that certain information is required to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings only if applicable;
- (2) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (3) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 2849, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2849, S.D. 2.

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

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2899 SBI	GVO. JDC	3/3/26

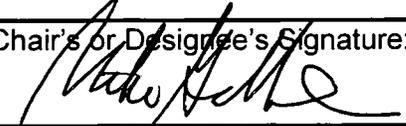
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—

Recommendation: Adopted 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