

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2226-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20 , 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 129

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 129 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT INCREASE TREE CANOPY COVERAGE AND INSTALL SHADE TREES IN URBAN AREAS TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF URBAN HEAT ISLANDS ACROSS THE STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to affirm support for expanding programs and projects that increase tree-canopy coverage and install shade trees in urban areas to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands throughout the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Healthy Living, Active Living; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that an urban heat island effect occurs when built environments with extensive pavement, rooftops, and other heat-absorbing materials experience significantly higher temperatures than surrounding areas. Your Committee further finds that the effects of urban heat islands are already being felt across the State, increasing heat exposure and the risk of heat-related illness among residents. Your Committee also finds that urban tree-canopy programs provide multiple co-benefits, including

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improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, lower energy costs, enhanced biodiversity, and better mental and physical health outcomes. Your Committee additionally finds that collaboration across state and county agencies is necessary to maximize the effectiveness and equitability of shade-tree and urban-canopy strategies across the State.

Your Committee particularly encourages the prioritization of native trees in the State's efforts to increase tree-canopy coverage and install shade trees in urban areas to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands across the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 129 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

*for*   
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MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



