

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3550**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 159
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 159 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE RESTORATION OF WAIKIKI BEACHES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the adoption of shared guiding principles for the restoration of Waikiki beaches.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Your Committee finds that the beaches of Waikiki have historically been an epicenter of Hawaiian culture and to this day continue to attract a significant portion of the State's tourists and their expenditures, directly and indirectly helping to contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. Because of their popularity, the beaches require constant maintenance to preserve the quality upon which public enjoyment of them and their economic viability depends. Though state and local government, in coordination with private interests, have tried to produce a long-term strategy for the preservation of Waikiki beaches, your Committee believes that these efforts have been hindered by a lack of shared vision and principles that would ensure the preservation



was sustainable and equitable. This measure will recommend strategies to ensure Waikiki beaches remain accessible and profitable for future generations of residents and visitors.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language specifying that countless local families and residents living in the urban core visit beaches in Waikiki and along the southern shore daily for recreation and relaxation and to spend time with family and friends;
- (2) Inserting language specifying that numerous safety incidents regularly occur in the area and must be addressed by providing improved emergency access to the shoreline;
- (3) Clarifying that the strategy of prioritization of public access to and enjoyment of the ocean, beach, and shoreline includes a permanent makai pathway along the shoreline that conforms to Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, provides lateral public access for residents and visitors, and connects beaches and parks from Diamondhead to Kakaako, with sufficient width to also provide emergency access to light-duty emergency vehicles; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 159, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 159, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,

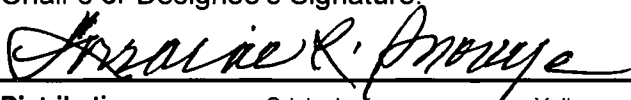


CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SCR 159	WLA	3/30/2026
<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	
LEE, Chris (C)	✓	
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓	
CHANG, Stanley		✓
LAMOSAO, Rachele	✓	
DECORTE, Samantha	✓	
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