

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2145

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2347  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2347 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the language and meaning of any proposed constitutional amendment and ratification question to be simple, concise, and direct to the extent practicable;
- (2) Allow the presiding officers of the Legislature to request a written opinion of the Supreme Court regarding the legality of a proposed amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution and the corresponding constitutional ratification question;
- (3) Require the Supreme Court to provide a written opinion within forty-eight hours of receipt of the request;
- (4) Require, for any written opinion by the Supreme Court that invalidates a constitutional ratification question, a detailed and specific explanation of the reasons for this opinion; and
- (5) Prohibit any appeal of a written opinion.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that constitutional ratification questions should be posed in simple, concise, and direct language. Your Committee further finds that it is an appropriate exercise of the powers of the Hawaii Supreme Court to issue written opinions on the legality of a proposed constitutional ratification question upon request of the Senate President or the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This measure provides a mechanism to ensure the legality of constitutional ratification questions are addressed by the highest court in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the Supreme Court is afforded one week rather than forty-eight hours to provide a written response to a request for an opinion as to whether a proposed amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution and the corresponding constitutional ratification question is simple, concise, and direct to the extent practicable; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 30, 2075, to encourage further discussion.

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. 2347, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2347, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2347	JDC, WAM	02-01-22		
<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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)		✓		
ACASIO, Laura				✓
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt		✓		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes