

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 452 -24

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2024

FEB 15

RE: H.B. No. 1544
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1544, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE WATER CODE PENALTIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the types of potential violations of the State Water Code;
- (2) Add a minimum penalty and amend the maximum penalty per violation of the State Water Code;
- (3) Clarify what constitutes a separate offense;
- (4) Require the Commission on Water Resource Management to consider certain factors when imposing penalties; and
- (5) Make the setting, charging, and collecting of administrative fines by the Commission on Water Resource Management mandatory, rather than discretionary.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in

2024-1524 HB1544 HD1 HSCR HMSO



opposition to this measure from the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Water Supply of the County of Hawai'i and Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

Your Committee finds that this measure will better enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Commission on Water Resource Management to protect the precious water resources of Hawaii by amending and clarifying the penalty structure for violators of the State Water Code.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1544, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



