

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 541

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16, 2023

RE: H.B. No. 1200
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1200, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require and appropriate funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program that is compliant with federal and state laws;
- (2) Authorize the use of unmanned aircraft systems to monitor, investigate, and obtain admissible evidence of natural and cultural resource violations; and
- (3) Beginning January 1, 2027, require a biennial report to the Legislature on the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International, and three individuals.

2023-1730 HB1200 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources has vast responsibility for enforcing state laws related to natural and cultural resources on over one million acres of state land and three million acres of state ocean waters. Your Committee further finds that unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, provide a unique and powerful tool for monitoring potentially illegal activity on public lands and can aid effective enforcement. This modern enforcement tool can provide an efficient, cost-effective, and valuable method of obtaining admissible evidence for enforcement proceedings, as well as deter illegal conduct on public lands.

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. 1200, 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



