

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 117
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.
No. 117 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEFAMATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to protect individuals making claims of sexual misconduct from defamation lawsuits unless the claim is proven to be made with malice.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Society of Human Resource Management Hawaii and one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that defamation lawsuits are sometimes brought against individuals who are making truthful claims about sexual misconduct, which can be used to silence victims. The threat of lawsuits may negatively impact victims and good-faith reporters attempting to report sexual misconduct. This measure will create safer communities in the State by providing additional protections to individuals who make truthful claims about sexual misconduct.



Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, 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. 117, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 117, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 117</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">JDC</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">01/26/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <small>2312</small></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <small>2311</small></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold <small>2310</small></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit <small>2313</small></div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.			✓	
AWA, Brenton			✓	
TOTAL	3	—	2	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;">Mike Gabbard</div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> Distribution: Original File with Committee Report Yellow Clerk's Office Pink Drafting Agency Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div>				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**