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February 20, 2025
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 1158, H.D. 1
RELATING TO FIREFIGHTING AT COMMERCIAL HARBORS

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this measure that improves safety at commercial harbors by limiting the civil liability of private entities that assist firefighters in rendering firefighting services. This bill was included in the Governor's Package at DOT's request.

There are privately-owned assets and vessels home ported in commercial ports across the state that are equipped with fire monitors and water cannons that could be used in fighting fires in and around waterfront facilities. However, there have been instances where private entities responsible for these assets and vessels have declined to assist county fire departments in providing firefighting services because of concerns over possible civil liability. This bill seeks to limit the civil liability of private individuals providing those essential firefighting services to only damages resulting from an individual's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Testimony for HB 1158, HD1, Relating to Firefighting at Commercial Harbors

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 20, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group is in strong **support** of HB 1158, HD1, relating to firefighting at commercial harbors.

This measure was proposed by the Department of Transportation Harbors Division and included in the Governor's package after policy leaders collaborate with local firefighters to make recommendations to enhance maritime safety. Preventing and rapidly responding to maritime fires is crucial because a fire on a ship can rapidly escalate, especially due to the limited firefighting capabilities available at sea and the remote locations where ships may operate. Ensuring that private sector resources can be effectively deployed in the event of an emergency is an important step toward promoting maritime safety.

HHUG's mission is to support and strengthen Hawaii commercial maritime operations, working closely with members, partners, stakeholders, and government leaders. Our vision is for resilient, efficient, and effective commercial maritime industry, serving the needs of the people of Hawaii

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

HB-1158-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:08:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Someone who is a firefighter should perform at a fire to the level of their training and experience. If they do not, then they should be liable for any injuries or damages caused by their negligence as any other professional would be.

A bystander who is attempting to assist at a fire with no previous training should be exempt from any liability under good Samaritan laws.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love