

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 25 2009

RE: H.B. No. 615  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Economic Development and Technology, to which was referred H.B. No. 615, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HARASSMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prevent individuals from being harassed by those using innovative forms of technology by extending the offense of harassment to include any form of digital communication.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Law Offices of Marvin S.C. Dang, LLC. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that harassing or insulting electronic communications are a form of harassment that can be just as severe or punishing as other verbal communications or offensive contacts. Your Committee also finds that including nonconsensual or harassing electronic communications, including email communications, in the criminal offense of harassment by stalking will provide a means for those victims that are targeted to seek justice.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adding an amendment to section 711-1106.5(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include the ability to make a nonconsensual contact through any



form of electronic communication in the offense of harassment by stalking.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development and Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 615, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 615, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development and Technology,

  
CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Economic Development and Technology**  
**EDT**

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes