

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO VESSELS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that process of removing  
2 vessels found stranded in nearshore waters is in need of  
3 evaluation. One such example of a vessel stranded in nearshore  
4 waters is a commercial fishing vessel that ran aground off the  
5 beaches of Waikiki on October 10, 2017. Salvage crews took  
6 nearly two months to remove the vessel through various means and  
7 eventually brought the vessel further out to sea to be sunk.  
8 While the salvage efforts were going on, the vessel leaked oil  
9 and fuel, which later caught on fire, and damaged shallow reefs.  
10 The stranded vessel and its delayed removal displayed a  
11 potential environmental impact on Hawaii's nearshore waters.  
12 Delays in addressing future strandings may have similar or even  
13 greater detrimental impacts to the environment.

14       The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to  
15 review the process that the department of land and natural  
16 resources uses to stranded vessels in nearshore waters.



1           SECTION 2. (a) There is established in the department of  
2 land and natural resources for administrative purposes a task  
3 force to evaluate the process that the department uses to  
4 respond to vessels stranded in nearshore waters. The task force  
5 shall consist of the following members:

6           (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
7 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall  
8 serve as the task force's chair;

9           (2) The director of transportation or the director's  
10 designee;

11          (3) The Commander of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
12 or the Commander's designee;

13          (4) An individual who shall represent the boating  
14 community;

15          (5) An individual who shall represent the environmental  
16 protection community; and

17          (6) Any additional members the chairperson of the task  
18 force deems necessary.

19          (b) In reviewing the process for the removal of vessels  
20 stranded in nearshore waters, the task force shall examine the  
21 environmental impacts stranded vessels have to the State's



1 nearshore resources and ways to minimize those impacts through  
2 the removal of stranded vessels.

3 (c) No member of the task force shall be made subject to  
4 section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that  
5 member's participation as a member of the task force.

6 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without  
7 compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses, including  
8 travel costs, necessary for the performance of their duties  
9 under this Act.

10 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
11 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
13 the regular session of 2019.

14 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2019.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY:

Richard L. Loo  
Nicole E. Loo

Kelley  
Guthrie Thickett  
LOWE  
Gwen P. Loo



H.B. NO. 1997

Cel JF

JAN 19 2018



# H.B. NO. 1997

**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Vessel Stranding; Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes a task force to review the process that the Department of Land and Natural Resources uses to respond to vessels stranded in nearshore waters and report to the Legislature on its findings.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

