

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

265

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 , 2021

RE: H.B. No. 73
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 73 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to include telecommunications dispatchers within the definition of "emergency worker" in the Hawaii Penal Code. Specifically, this measure will provide heightened penalties for any person who commits the offense of assault against a telecommunications dispatcher during an emergency period.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Department of Health Environmental Health Administration; Enhanced 911 Board; Maui Police Department; Honolulu Police Department; Hawaii Police Department; Hawaii Fire Department; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Paradise Medical Services, LLC; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender.

Your Committee finds that telecommunications dispatchers play a vital role in partnership with their in-the-field first responder colleagues. Your Committee further finds that telecommunications dispatchers undergo extensive training to

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develop skills that allow them to assist individuals during a variety of situations. Your Committee believes that telecommunications dispatchers should be protected under the Hawaii Penal Code similar to their in-the-field first responder colleagues.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Including Hawaii state on-scene coordinators and Hawaii state hospital telephone operators within the definition of "emergency worker" in the Hawaii Penal Code; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 73, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 73, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-first Legislature

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 73	Committee Referral: JHA, FIN	Date: 2-4-21		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	✓			
2. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (VC)	✓			
3. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
4. KOBAYASHI, Dale T.	✓			
5. LoPRESTI, Matthew S.	✓			
6. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
8. NAKAMURA, Nadine K.	✓			
9. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
10. TODD, Chris	✓			
11. TOKIOKA, James Kunane				✓
12. WARD, Gene	✓			
TOTAL (12)	11	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				