

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 285

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2021

RE: S.B. No. 700
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 700 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require
government entities to seek reimbursement for all or a portion of
search and rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after
leaving a hiking trail to enter a prohibited area or hiking on a
trail closed to the public.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this
measure from Department of Land and Natural Resources and the
Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and
Wildlife.

Your Committee finds that with the numerous hiking trails
available to the public throughout the State, there are certain
areas that pose safety concerns and consequently have been closed
to the public. Despite this, your Committee finds that there are
cases in which individuals and groups unlawfully enter trails that
have been closed off to the public due to safety concerns,
ultimately putting those individuals and groups at risk of
significant injury and further risking the damage of native



habitats and other natural resources being preserved in closed areas.

Your Committee further finds that those defying the law by entering into prohibited areas not only put themselves at risk, but create potentially difficult and expensive rescue operations. The costs associated with the search and rescue of individuals who willfully disregard their own safety by ignoring warning signs are considerable. This measure will hold those willfully disregarding the law accountable by requiring a reimbursement of funds used for a search and rescue mission of those who entered a prohibited area.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 700, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 700, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,


Clarence K. Nishihara

CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 700	PSM, JDC	Feb 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310				
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)	/			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt				/
TOTAL	4	-	-	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted				
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes