STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1296-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 , 2022

RE: S.B. No. 777

S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2022 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 777, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CRIMINAL DESTRUCTION OF TREES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the offense of criminal destruction of a tree on state or county property, punishable as a misdemeanor.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Trees for Honolulu's Future, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that trees offer many benefits to addressing the effects of climate change, such as promoting carbon sequestration, reducing ambient temperatures and storm water runoff, increasing wildlife habitat, and providing other quality of life benefits. Establishing criminal penalties to apply to the destruction of trees on state or county property would deter the unauthorized destruction of trees and allow for greater protection, preservation, and enhancement of the State's natural resources.

Your Committee has amended this measure by clarifying that the offense of criminal destruction of a tree on state or county property does not apply to volunteers or service groups that have permission to remove undesirable trees.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 777, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 777, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

nivole E. Loven

NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-first Legislature

HSCR1296-22

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: Committee SB 777.502	Referral: EEP, J	HA Date:	3/22/	2022
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)				
2. MARTEN, Lisa (VC)	/			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.				
4. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.				
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.				
6. TODD, Chris	- Andrews - Andr			
7. TOKIOKA, James Kunane				
8. MATSUMOTO, Lauren		a a e tare l'instance . Il amb tel manufa del re		
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TOTAL (8)	6			2
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				