

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 03 2023**

RE: S.B. No. 497  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.  
No. 497, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit commercial vehicles weighing ten thousand pounds or more from driving in the left lane on all roadways with two lanes unless the commercial vehicle is able to maintain speed with existing traffic flow and is in the process of passing another vehicle;
- (2) Provide exceptions for commercial vehicles turning or exiting left, or preparing to turn or exit left;
- (3) Prohibit commercial vehicles weighing ten thousand pounds or more from driving in the left lane on all roadways with three or more lanes; and
- (4) Exempt buses and van pools operated by the counties.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Transportation



Association. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Transportation.

Your Committee finds that traffic mitigation strategies allow roadway users to safely navigate across the State. Improvement of traffic flow on state roadways also decreases the likelihood of traffic congestion and motor vehicle collisions that may cause serious injuries or death. Oversized vehicles especially have the potential to slow traffic flow for smaller vehicles by restricting their operation in the left lane of roadways. This measure ensures the safety of all roadway users while also addressing traffic flow solutions.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 497, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Second Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 497 SDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>TCA, JDC</b>	Date: <b>3/2/23</b>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report   Clerk's Office   Drafting Agency   Committee File Copy				

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**