

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1534

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 227
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 Water and Land, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 227 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT AN IMMEDIATE FINE FOR
GROUNDED VESSELS THAT HAVE REASONABLY CAUSED SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR CREATED A MATERIAL BURDEN ON THE
STATE FOR ITS REMOVAL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Land and Natural Resources to implement an immediate
fine for grounded vessels that have reasonably caused significant
damage to the environment or created a material burden on the
state for its removal.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural
Resources.

Your Committee finds that grounded vessels can cause
considerable damage to the State's natural resources by smashing
coral reefs and poisoning fish and other native marine wildlife.
However, your Committee also finds that the State's current
recourse process for grounded vessels is onerous, requiring the
Department of Land and Natural Resources to submit a fact-



intensive recommendation of proposed administrative penalties to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, which can often take weeks or months. Your Committee finds that an immediate fine for grounded vessels could serve as a deterrence to irresponsible vessel owners and also provide a cost offset for the State while it investigates and finalizes its recommended penalties to the Board. Therefore, this measure requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to implement an immediate fine of \$10,000 for grounded vessels.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing the qualifier that the damage to the environment reasonably caused by a grounded vessel be "significant" to be immediately fined; and
- (2) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 227, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 227, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair



