

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 228

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1505
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 Transportation and Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.B. No. 1505 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the issuance of permits for the mooring of vessels engaged in certain activities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation, Surfrider Foundation, Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea, Parley for the Oceans, and Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that illegal or harmful activity throughout the Pacific Ocean has increased. In many cases, foreign vessels entered new areas of the Pacific Ocean to traffic illegal commodities. Other foreign vessels have frequently entered other nations' protected areas to collect resources to the detriment of local communities and are beginning to scout waters near the State to conduct undersea mining, which poses a significant threat of irreparable harm to the State's undersea ecosystems. Prohibiting the issuance of permits for mooring in State harbors for vessels engaged in illegal activity may assist in the protection of the State's fragile aquatic resources.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have authorized the Department of Transportation to deny the issuance of a permit under certain circumstances;
- (2) Inserting statutory language establishing when the Department of Transportation may implement restrictions on the use of State commercial harbor facilities; and
- (3) Specifying that the unpermitted or unlicensed collection or extraction of undersea minerals triggers the Department of Transportation's ability to restrict use of State commercial harbor facilities.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1505, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1505, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation and
Culture and the Arts,



CHRIS LEE, Chair



