

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1081

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1158
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1158, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREFIGHTING AT COMMERCIAL HARBORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to limit the civil liability of individuals who render firefighting services with a firefighting vessel, upon reasonable command, at any of the State's commercial harbors or roadsteads, any commercial harbor or waterfront improvement belonging to or controlled by the State, or any vessel within a commercial harbor or roadstead to only damages resulting from the individual's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation and Hawai'i Harbors User Group. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that there are privately owned assets and vessels that are home ported in commercial ports across the State and are equipped with firefighting tools, such as fire monitors and water cannons. However, the owners of these assets and vessels have been reluctant to use them to assist county fire

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departments and provide firefighting services because of concerns over possible civil liability. Limiting the civil liability for those private individuals to cases of gross negligence, as proposed by this measure, will encourage these individuals to provide assistance to county fire departments and enhance maritime safety by preventing and rapidly responding to maritime fires.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1158, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HBI158 HDI	Committee Referral: TRN, PBC, JHA	Date: 02/20/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	10	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not 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				