

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2025

RE: S.B. No. 130

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water and Land and Public Safety and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 130 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require
government entities to seek reimbursement for all or a portion of
search or rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after:

- (1) Leaving a hiking trail and entering state, county, or
private property that is closed to the public and is
marked with a sign giving notice of the closure; or
- (2) Entering a hiking trail that is closed to the public and
marked with a sign giving notice of the closure.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from ten individuals.

Your Committees find that inexperienced and experienced
hikers occasionally ignore posted warning signs, intentionally
leave a hiking trail, or enter property that is closed to the
public. While search and rescue of lost or injured persons are
anticipated and part of the expected operations of first
responders, when an individual chooses to ignore the warnings of
government agencies or private landowners to maintain public
safety, ongoing operations must be put on hold and agencies must




incur additional, unbudgeted costs and expenses to find and rescue these individuals. Your Committees note that when one of these hikers needs to be rescued, it is the State that bears the burden of paying for the costs associated with the search or rescue. This measure will allow the State to offset costs associated with the search and rescue of hikers who take unnecessary risks by requiring government entities to seek reimbursement from the rescued party.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water and Land and Public Safety and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 130 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water and Land
and Public Safety and Military
Affairs,


BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

*Only one measure per Record of Votes