

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 871
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 871, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ARSON,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Authorize periods of imprisonment for individuals with previous arson convictions;
- (2) Authorize additional penalties for arson crimes that endanger vulnerable areas; and
- (3) Require restitution for victims of arson who experienced property damage.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Honolulu Police Department and one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that protecting communities statewide from dangerous activities is of paramount importance. While existing law provides for penalties for repeat offenders convicted of arson-related offenses, these provisions are insufficient to



deter would-be offenders. Further, existing provisions may not be commensurate with the consequences incurred by the local community that must seek restitution. Therefore, enhanced penalties, including longer mandatory minimum sentences, may deter individuals from engaging in arson. This measure prioritizes public safety while deterring individuals from engaging in dangerous activities.

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. 871, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



