STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3029

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2521
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2521, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

(1) Exempt emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's license requirements;

(2) Require federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement officers to maintain proof that they have successfully completed an agency approved or other state approved training on authorized emergency vehicles;

(3) Amend the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" under State Traffic Code to replace ambulances with emergency medical services vehicles; and

(4) Expand the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" to include disaster response and recovery vehicles and Department of Health vehicles.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation; Department of Health;

Department of Human Resources of the City and County of Honolulu; Honolulu Emergency Services Department; and United Public Workers AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO.

Your Committee finds that there is currently a shortage of drivers with commercial driver's licenses. Requiring emergency medical services personnel to satisfy commercial driver's license requirements erects an administrative barrier that hinders the recruitment and retention of these essential first responders. This measure will exempt emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's license requirements, streamlining regulations for emergency responders while maintaining the high standards of safety that the public expects and deserves.

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. 2521, 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

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2521 SD1	TRS/HHS, JDC	3/3/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☑ Pass, unamended 2312 ☐ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			✓
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	-	-	2

Recommendation: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26