

FEB 24 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A  
DEDICATED PANEL OF COMMISSIONERS TO OVERSEE MATTERS RELATED  
TO INTRASTATE WATER CARRIERS AND MARITIME COMMERCE.

1           WHEREAS, the State's intrastate water carriers are  
2 essential to the Hawaii's economic stability and public  
3 well-being as they ensure the reliable movement of food, fuel,  
4 medicine, construction materials, and consumer goods across the  
5 islands; and

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7           WHEREAS, unlike most states, Hawaii relies on maritime  
8 transportation as a core component of its internal supply chain  
9 rather than a supplemental mode of transport; and

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11           WHEREAS, regulation of intrastate water carriers involves  
12 highly technical and operational considerations, including  
13 vessel safety, harbor operations, emergency preparedness,  
14 infrastructure investment, workforce requirements, and long-term  
15 maritime system planning; and

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17           WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulates  
18 intrastate water carriers alongside electric, gas,  
19 telecommunications, and other utilities, despite the  
20 fundamentally distinct operational characteristics of maritime  
21 transportation; and

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23           WHEREAS, the complexity and criticality of maritime  
24 transportation warrant specialized regulatory focus and subject  
25 matter expertise to ensure informed, timely, and consistent  
26 decision-making; and

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28           WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, through its  
29 Harbors Division, has direct responsibility for harbor  
30 infrastructure and maritime operations and serves as a key  
31 technical and operational partner to intrastate water carriers;  
32 and



1  
2 WHEREAS, closer alignment and structured coordination  
3 between the PUC's regulatory function and maritime operational  
4 expertise would strengthen regulatory effectiveness without  
5 altering existing statutory authority; and

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7 WHEREAS, establishing a dedicated maritime or intrastate  
8 commerce panel within the PUC would improve regulatory clarity,  
9 continuity, and capacity as the State advances clean energy,  
10 decarbonization, resilience, and supply-chain security goals;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, strengthening specialized oversight of intrastate  
14 water carriers supports supply-chain resilience, cost  
15 containment, emergency response readiness, and long-term  
16 investment certainty for businesses and communities across the  
17 State; now, therefore,

18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities  
22 Commission is requested to establish a dedicated panel of  
23 commissioners, or other formal internal structure, to oversee  
24 matters related to intrastate water carriers and maritime  
25 commerce; and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PUC is encouraged to ensure  
28 that the oversight panel is supported by appropriate technical  
29 expertise, maritime operational knowledge, and stakeholder  
30 engagement to address the unique characteristics of intrastate  
31 maritime transportation; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages enhanced  
34 coordination between the PUC, Department of Transportation,  
35 maritime operators, labor, and other stakeholders to inform  
36 regulatory decisions and improve system-wide outcomes; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body affirms that  
39 specialized maritime oversight within the existing regulatory  
40 framework would strengthen interisland supply-chain resilience,  
41 support the State's clean energy transition, and promote



# S.C.R. NO. 23

1 reliable and affordable maritime transportation residents and  
2 businesses; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of  
Transportation; Chair of the Public Utilities Commission; Deputy  
Director of Transportation, Harbors Division; and the Chamber of  
Commerce Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be the initials 'JBL'.