

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2451

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2025

RE: S.B. No. 2527

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred S.B. No. 2527 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require that state and county firefighters exempt from commercial driver licensure be subject to an alcohol and substance abuse policy for employees that is equivalent to, or exceeds the provisions of, the safety and health standards established by the United States Department of Transportation for holders of commercial driver's licenses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation, Department of Human Resources Development, Office of the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, and Department of Human Resources of the City and County of Honolulu.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 1463, AFL-CIO.

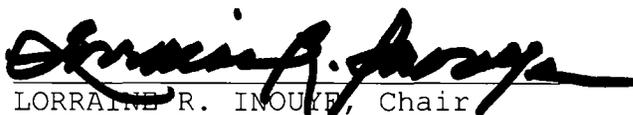
Your Committee finds that existing law does not account for a critical gap in safety oversight for individuals operating commercial motor vehicles in emergency response roles. Currently, state and county firefighters are exempt from commercial driver's



license requirements and are therefore also exempt from the associated controlled substance and alcohol testing requirements applied to other operators with a commercial driver's license. Because of their roles as first responders, your Committee believes that state and county firefighters should be subject to a strict alcohol and substance abuse policy. This measure will strengthen public safety and ensure accountability across all commercial vehicle operators, regardless of their employment or exemption status.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2527 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
 Committee on Transportation
 TRS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2527	TRS, JDC	02/17/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
LEE, Chris				✓
DECORTE, Samantha				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes