

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2538

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2567  
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 Labor and Technology, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 2567 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PETITIONS TO TEMPORARILY  
RESTRAIN AND ENJOIN HARASSMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize public  
employers to petition for temporary restraining orders and  
injunctions against employment-related harassment of certain  
public employees.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Department of  
Education, and University of Hawaii Professional Assembly.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
Department of the Attorney General and Hawaii Government Employees  
Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO.

Your Committee finds that there is an alarming increase in  
harassment, acts of violence, and threats against public servants,  
which inhibits these workers' ability to carry out their critical  
duties. However, existing law only allows an individual to obtain  
a temporary restraining order against harassment on their own  
behalf. Your Committee believes that allowing a public employer  
to pursue protective orders on behalf of public servants lessens



the individual border on these employees as they continue to work on behalf of the public. This measure will help public employers ensure continuity of operations, maintain a safe working environment for their employees, and encourage experienced public servants to seek and remain in leadership roles.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Expanding, the definition of "public servant" to include all officers and employees of all three branches of government and all counties;
- (2) Inserting a definition for "public servant of the State" to mean a public servant who is not an officer or employee of any political subdivision of the State or an active, formerly active, or retired federal judge or justice;
- (3) Authorizing agencies, in addition to branches of governments and departments, to represent their public servant employee;
- (4) Requiring the Department of the Attorney General to establish a system to allow a public employer of a public servant of the State to retain a private attorney to provide representation to the public employer to pursue a protective order to enjoin and protect against harassment, subject to certain limitations;
- (5) Authorizing the Judiciary to use its staff attorneys or utilize its own funds to retain a private attorney to represent a public servant of the State employed by the Judiciary;
- (6) Establishing a liability protection for the State, state employers, and state officials when petitioning for restraining orders and injunctions against employment-related harassment of certain public employees;
- (7) Inserting a blank appropriation amount for the Department of the Attorney General to establish a system



for retaining private attorneys to provide representation for public employee of the State;

- (8) Specifying that the appropriation to the Department of the Attorney General will not lapse until June 30, 2028;
- (9) Making it sunset on June 30, 2028;
- (10) Updating legislative findings and amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (11) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2077, to encourage further discussion; and
- (12) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor and Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2567, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2567, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Labor and  
Technology,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair



