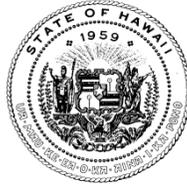


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Thursday, March 12, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

HB1158, HD1
RELATING TO FIREFIGHTING AT COMMERCIAL HARBORS

Senate Committees on Transportation & Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports HB1158, HD1, this measure directly aligns with the Department's mission to ensure the safety, security, and operational effectiveness of Hawaii's commercial harbors and waterfront facilities.

There are privately-owned assets and vessels home ported in commercial ports across the state that are equipped with fire monitors and water cannons that could be used in fighting fires in and around waterfront facilities. However, there have been instances where private entities responsible for these assets and vessels have declined to assist county fire departments in providing firefighting services because of concerns over possible civil liability. This bill seeks to limit the civil liability of private individuals providing those essential firefighting services to only damages resulting from an individual's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



Testimony for HB 1158, HD1, Relating to Firefighting at Commercial Harbors

Senate Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Elefante and Lee, and members of the committees,

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group (HHUG) is in **support** of HB 1158, HD1, relating to firefighting at commercial harbors.

This measure was proposed by the Department of Transportation Harbors Division and included in the Governor's package after policy leaders collaborated with local firefighters to make recommendations to enhance maritime safety. Preventing and rapidly responding to maritime fires is crucial because a fire on a ship can rapidly escalate, especially due to the limited firefighting capabilities available at sea and the remote locations where ships may operate. Ensuring that private sector resources can be effectively deployed in the event of an emergency is an important step toward promoting maritime safety.

HHUG's mission is to support and strengthen Hawaii commercial maritime operations, working closely with members, partners, stakeholders, and government leaders. Our vision is for a resilient, efficient, and effective commercial maritime industry, serving the needs of the people of Hawaii

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-1158-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:25:28 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/12/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Agree