

ACT 211

H.B. NO. 1159

A Bill for an Act Relating to Commercial Harbors.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. (a) There is established the commercial harbors emergency evacuation working group within the department of transportation for administrative purposes.

(b) The working group shall:

- (1) Review current federal and state laws regarding emergency evacuation procedures for commercial harbors;
- (2) Determine whether there is adequate space in commercial harbors for all vessels to moor should they be required to evacuate Honolulu harbor and come up with a comprehensive mooring plan; and
- (3) Review and evaluate whether current federal and state penalties are sufficient to ensure compliance with emergency evacuation orders for commercial harbors.

(c) The working group shall consist of the following:

- (1) The deputy director of the harbors division of the department of transportation who shall serve as chair of the working group;
- (2) The chairs of the senate and house of representatives standing committees whose subject matter purview includes transportation;
- (3) The United States Coast Guard captain of the port Honolulu sector, to be invited by the chair of the working group; and
- (4) Users of the commercial harbors that are invited by the chair of the working group including but not limited to transpacific ocean carriers, interisland ocean carriers, a representative of the Hawaii Longline Association, a representative of the United Fishing Agency, cruise line operators, and tug and barge operators.

(d) The chair of the working group shall provide an option to attend each meeting remotely.

(e) The members of the working group shall serve without compensation; provided that members who are employees of the State shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties. No member of the working group shall be subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the member's participation in the working group.

(f) The working group shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

(g) The department of transportation shall provide necessary administrative support to the working group in carrying out their duties, including facilitating stakeholder engagement, arranging informational briefings, coordinating relevant site visits, and preparation of the report pursuant to subsection (f).

(h) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027.

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SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 25, 2025.)