

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 663

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2021

RE: S.B. No. 151

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 151 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to replace the term "accident" with "collision" for the purposes of certain provisions of the statewide traffic code.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii Bicycling League, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Blue Zones Project.

Your Committee finds that the use of the term "accident" when referring to a traffic collision or incident is outdated. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) replaced the term "accident" with "collision" in their policies, procedures, and report writing more than a decade ago. Additionally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has encouraged everyone to use the term "collision" instead of "accident" when referring to incidents of vehicular collision. This measure amends the statewide traffic code to replace "accident" with "collision" to bring Hawaii statutes in line with the NHTSA and HPD policies and provide consistency and clarity.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 151 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



