STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2947

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 1 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2575

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2575 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions; and
- (2) Prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawaii; Parley for the Oceans, Hawaii; Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition; Hawaii Wildlife Fund; Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea; Deep Sea Mining Campaign; Rev Ocean; Friends of Haunama Bay; Marine Conservation Institute; Kauai Women's Caucus; Hawaiis Thousand Friends; Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, National Parks Conservation Association; Oceanic Preservation Society; Marine Mammal Center; Greenpeace USA; HULIPAC; Te Ipukarea Society; Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory; Surfrider

Foundation Hawai'i; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; FutureSwell; Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Ocean Foundation; For the Fishes; Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition; 350Hawaii.org; The Nature Conservancy; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Greenpeace Hawaii; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; Blue Climate Initiative - Tetiaroa Society US; and thirty-one individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals.

Your Committee finds that that seabed mining is the antithesis of the Hawaii State Constitution's commitment to safeguard Hawaii's waters for future generations. Your Committee further finds that the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed is extremely destructive to ocean ecosystems that are already severely stressed due to rising temperatures, acidification, overfishing, and other effects caused by climate change. Your Committee notes that even though mining companies frequently use renewable energy as a justification to conduct mineral extraction from seabeds, the risks far outweigh any perceived benefit that mining would have on fighting the climate crisis. This measure will ensure the protection of the State's ocean environment from further damage, disruption, and destruction caused by seabed mining.

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. 2575 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

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:		ĺ	Date:		
SB 2575	AEN WI	L, JDC	0:	02 28 24		
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused	
RHOADS, Karl (C)						
GABBARD, Mike (VC)						
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.		/				
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.						
AWA, Brenton						
<u> </u>						
TOTAL		3	Φ	Φ	2	
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted						
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy						

*Only one measure per Record of Votes