

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

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Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 5, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 887

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred H.B. No. 887 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WHISTLEBLOWERS' PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the Whistleblowers' Protection Act by:

- (1) Providing additional protections to public employees who report or are about to report to a public employer or public body:
 - (A) Law violations;
 - (B) Actions by a public employer or public employee that are economically wasteful or involved gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency; and
 - (C) Conditions that may significantly threaten the health or safety of the public or of the public employee;
- (2) Allowing a public employee to bring civil action for punitive damages for reporting alleged violations; and
- (3) Expanding the role of the State Ombudsman regarding whistleblower protection.

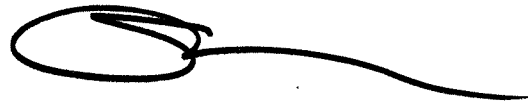


The Hawaii Government Employees Association, ILWU Local 142, and Hawaii State Teachers Association testified in support of this bill. The Department of Human Resources of the City and County of Honolulu testified in opposition to this measure. The Department of Human Resources Development, Department of the Attorney General, and Office of the Ombudsman commented on this bill.

The Whistleblowers' Protection Act was enacted to protect employees who report violations of federal, state, and local laws, regulations, or any other illegal activity performed by an employer. Your Committee finds that this measure could result in more efficient and ethical government operations since employees are more apt to come forward and report problems if they are protected for doing so.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 887 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor & Public
Employment,



ALEX M. SONSON, Chair



