

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2198

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2458  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Economic Development and Taxation, to which was referred S.B. No. 2458 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the offense of criminal impersonation, making it a petty misdemeanor to impersonate another person and place the person at risk of bodily injury.

Testimony in support of this measure was received from the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Marvin S.C. Dang, LLLC.

In testimony before this Committee, members have heard that since April 2007, a number of Hawaii attorneys received thousands of e-mails from an anonymous sender. The e-mails contain false, derogatory, and defamatory messages about specific attorneys and law offices, as well as politicians, and others. These e-mails were also being sent to people outside the legal community and falsely identified as coming from a specific attorney.

Your Committee finds that this measure will help to deter the use of e-mails to defame, harass, and intimidate people, but that that the petty misdemeanor penalty may be too lenient. Your Committee further finds the classification of this offense as a class C felony is appropriate given that the actions of a perpetrator are so disruptive.

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Your Committee has amended this measure accordingly to make criminal impersonation a class C felony.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development and Taxation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2458, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2458, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development and Taxation,



CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



