

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 154

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 10, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 615
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 615 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HARASSMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to prevent individuals from being harassed by those using innovative forms of technology by extending the offense of harassment to include any form of digital communication.

Several individuals testified in support of this measure. The City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney also supported this bill with amendments. The Office of the Public Defender offered comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by broadening the form of technology to include any form of "electronic communication" instead of "digital communication". As defined in section 711-1111(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, "electronic communication" means: "...any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system."

Other technical, nonsubstantive amendments were made for clarity, consistency, and style.

HB615 HD1 HSCR JUD HMS 2009-1781



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 H.B. No. 615, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 615, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



JON RIKI KARAMATSU, Chair



