

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 3, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 901

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 901 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to assist the Department of the Attorney General and Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation in enforcing the laws of this State by:

- (1) Allowing the use of blue and red lamps, reflectors, or illumination devices on approved law enforcement vehicles of the affected agencies; and
- (2) Including official vehicles of the Department of the Attorney General and Harbors Division in the statutory definition of "authorized emergency vehicle."

The Department of the Attorney General, Department of Transportation, and one concerned individual testified in support of the measure.

Under current law, the Attorney General's investigators have all powers and authority of police officers or deputy sheriffs. Appointed enforcement officers of the Harbors Division are conferred the powers of police officers and are tasked with enforcing the laws and regulations for harbors in the State. Despite this law enforcement responsibility and authority, neither department has the official and explicit authority to use law

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enforcement vehicles with emergency response lights. This measure will explicitly allow the use of emergency response lights on approved enforcement vehicles of both agencies and assist them in enforcing the laws of the State.

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. 901 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



