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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ASSAULT OF A UTILITY WORKER.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. With increased frequency, utility workers  
2 across the nation are the victims of assault and aggression. In  
3 particular, the personal safety of field representatives who  
4 read and repair meters, line crew workers who respond to power  
5 outages, and billing representatives who accept payments or  
6 disconnect and reconnect meters are threatened. Nationwide, it  
7 has been reported that utility workers have been shot, stabbed,  
8 and, in some cases, killed while performing their official job  
9 duties.

10           As part of their normal job duties, utility workers are  
11 often put in situations where customers are irate for reasons  
12 beyond the workers' control, such as power outages and service  
13 disconnects, resulting in a potential for confrontation between  
14 the worker and customer. In addition, as utility workers are  
15 often working on or with systems that are inherently dangerous,  
16 any distraction has the potential to lead to serious injury or  
17 death.



1           It is currently a felony to cause injury to peace officers,  
2 police officers, firefighters, or emergency medical workers with  
3 the intent to prevent them from performing their duties. The  
4 purpose of this Act is to establish the offense of assault  
5 against a utility worker as a class C felony.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 707, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
8 and to read as follows:

9           "§707- Assault against a utility worker. (1) A person  
10 commits the offense of assault against a utility worker, if the  
11 person:

12           (a) Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes serious  
13 or substantial bodily injury to a utility worker who  
14 is engaged in the lawful performance of the utility  
15 worker's duties; or

16           (b) Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily  
17 injury with a dangerous instrument to a utility worker  
18 who is engaged in the lawful performance of the  
19 utility worker's duties.

20           (2) For purposes of this section "utility worker" means an  
21 employee of a government or private entity that provides utility



1 services to the general public, including electricity, water,  
2 wastewater, natural or synthetic gas, telephone, cable  
3 communications, or road maintenance services.

4 (3) Assault against a utility worker is a class C felony."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Assault of Utility Worker; Felony

**Description:**

Establishes a class C felony for an assault against a utility worker that causes serious or substantial bodily injury or an assault against a utility worker with a dangerous instrument that causes bodily injury. (HB796 HD1)

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