

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 , 2020

RE: H.B. No. 1874
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1874 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address crimes that impact the State's seniors by:

- (1) Lowering the age at which enhanced penalties apply for crimes against seniors from sixty-two to sixty; and
- (2) Making a perpetrator strictly liable for certain criminal offenses against seniors.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui, Maui County Office on Aging, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender.

Your Committee finds that there have been a number of violent crimes targeting seniors in the State. Existing law needs to be



amended to provide stronger deterrents and stricter consequences for crimes against seniors. More severe consequences, regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the senior's age, will increase protection for Hawaii's kupuna.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the age at which enhanced penalties apply for crimes against seniors from sixty years of age to an unspecified age;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 1874, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1874, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



CHRIS LEE, Chair



