

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 315-20

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2020

RE: H.B. No. 2474
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. 2474 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to include telecommunications dispatchers within the definition of "emergency worker" in the Hawaii Penal Code. Specifically, this measure will provide heightened penalties for any person who commits the offense of assault against a telecommunications dispatcher during an emergency period.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Defense; Honolulu Police Department; Kauai Police Department; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; American Medical Response; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that telecommunications dispatchers play a vital role in partnership with their in-the-field first responder colleagues. Your Committee further finds that telecommunications dispatchers undergo extensive training to develop skills that allow them to assist individuals during a variety of situations. Your Committee believes that telecommunications dispatchers should be protected under the

HB2474 HD1 HSCR JUD HMS 2020-0919



Hawaii Penal Code similar to their in-the-field first responder colleagues.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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. 2474, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2474, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



CHRIS LEE, Chair



