

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2020

FEB 14

RE: H.B. No. 676
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 Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 676
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to make intentionally or
knowingly causing bodily injury to certain health care facility
workers a Class C felony.

Prior to the hearing on this measure, your Committee posted
and made available for public review a proposed H.D. 1, which
deletes the contents of the measure and inserts language to
classify intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to
health care security professionals as felony assault in the second
degree.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the proposed
H.D. 1 from the Honolulu Police Department; The Queen's Health
Systems; United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO;
Healthcare Association of Hawaii; Hawaii Primary Care Association;
and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that under existing law, it is a
misdemeanor to assault a health care security professional. Your
Committee further finds that health care security professionals



are at increased risk of sustaining violent injuries due to the nature of their profession. According to testimony from The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's), workplace violence incidents at Queen's have led to serious injuries for Queen's staff, resulting in medical treatment, disability claims, and leaves of absence. Queen's also testified that, based on a review of Queen's Punchbowl Security Dispatch data, total incidents have increased from 27,918 dispatches in 2018 to 28,328 dispatches in 2019. Not including incidents involving behavioral health patients, in 2018, there were over twenty-five assault-related dispatch calls to the Queen's security team, five calls of which involved an assault on a health care security professional.

Your Committee also finds that health care security professionals provide a safe work place environment for all staff and patients. The proposed H.D. 1 recognizes the critical role health care security professionals play as frontline staff in violent situations and as essential members of the health care team by classifying assault against these professionals as felony assault in the second degree.

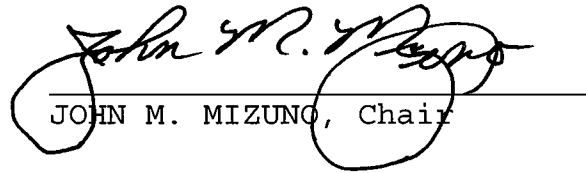
Your Committee has amended this measure by adopting the proposed H.D. 1 and further amending the measure by:

- (1) Changing its 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 Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 676, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 676, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.



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



JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Health

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 676</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HLT, JUD</i>	Date: <i>2-13-20</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MIZUNO, John M. (C)	✓			
2. KOBAYASHI, Bertrand (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. NAKAMURA, Nadine K.	✓			
5. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
6. SAY, Calvin K.Y.		✓		
7. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	✓			
8. WARD, Gene	✓			
TOTAL (8)	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>By: [Signature]</i></u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				