

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1467-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 28 , 2022

RE: H.R. No. 69

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.R. No. 69 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES SHOULD BE REIMBURSED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES ON LAND FOR TRAIL USERS AND WHAT CONSTITUTES PROPER PUBLIC NOTICE OF A TRAIL USER'S ILLEGAL PRESENCE ON LAND FOR PURPOSES OF IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAW,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to convene a working group to determine any circumstances under which government entities should be reimbursed for search and rescue services on land for trail users and what constitutes proper public notice of a trail user's illegal presence on land for purposes of imposing penalties for violations of law, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that when individuals defy the law by venturing onto closed hiking trails and subsequently require

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search and rescue response services, first response agencies bear the cost and risks involved in their rescue. This measure seeks to include public recreation, first response, land management, and legal stakeholders in the consideration of potential means to address costs incurred by government entities to rescue persons who knowingly venture into illegal or closed areas.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 69 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



