

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2021

RE: S.B. No. 347
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 347 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition, The Humane Society of the United States, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, five individuals, and a petition signed by over fifteen hundred individuals.

Your Committee finds that the release of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals. Many animals are attracted to the bright colors of balloons and mistake them for food, which can cause an animal severe injury or death. Animals are often found entangled in balloon strings and as a result are injured or strangled to death.

Your Committee further finds that any benefit provided by the intentional release of balloons is de minimis at best. Your

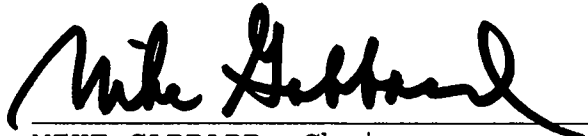


Committee notes that there are numerous other ecologically friendly options to celebrate or commemorate events. Therefore, your Committee finds that to ensure the safety of wildlife and marine animals and protect the environment, the intentional release of balloons filled with lighter-than-air gas should be prohibited, except under certain circumstances.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting language finding that several states, including California, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia, as well as numerous counties in other states have prohibited the release of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 347, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 347, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,

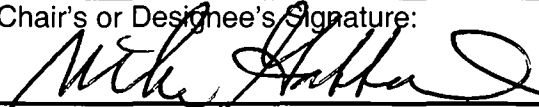


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 347	Committee Referral: AEN, JDC	Date: 02/03/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes