

Hawaii Harbor Users Group
March 23, 2022

RE: HCR180/HR180

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) is a non-profit maritime transportation industry group comprised of key commercial harbor users. As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support dependable and efficient cargo transportation and handling to service our residents and businesses.

HHUG supports HCR180/HR180, which requests the Hawaii State Department of Transportation to convene a working group and various committees to create and recommend federal, state, and county subsidies for the transport of waterborne cargo consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Water Carriers Working Group's final report; designates membership of the requested working group; sets forth more specific directives for the requested working group; and requests that an interim report providing an update on the status of the working groups efforts be submitted to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

HHUG generally supports efforts to secure funding that can reduce the cost of shipping for the residents of Hawaii in ways that are consistent with State policy decisions. HHUG requests that the resolutions be amended to delete references to seeking federal subsidies and replace those references with language to seek broad federal funding for the movement of waterborne intrastate cargo so as not to unnecessarily restrict or limit the use of any federal funds received. We also request that your Committee amend the measure to include a representative from HHUG on the Working Group.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.