

February 15, 2022

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committees,

American Marine Corporation strongly supports S.B. No. 2534.

S.B. No. 2534 will elevate the harbor safety initiative as an executive-level priority within the State and its partnering federal and commercial stakeholders. The bill would establish a Hawaii Harbor Safety Committee that would oversee the creation of a harbor safety plan, with subsequent annual reviews. Issues relating to harbor and maritime safety within the State would be coordinated through the Committee, with findings reported back to the Legislature.

The Hawaii Harbor Safety Committee would use the resources available and established through HOST to develop and annually review the harbor safety plan. In addition, the Committee could task HOST with exploring developing issues and recommending solutions. With the development and annual review of a harbor safety plan, emerging issues can be identified and resolved in a proactive manner, rather than to respond following an incident.

The Hawaii Harbor Safety Committee should be administratively attached to the Hawaii Department of Transportation – Harbors Division. The department’s priorities include safe commercial activities within the State of Hawaii as stated in its mission:

To effectively improve and manage a commercial harbors system that facilitates safe and efficient operations of commercial cargo, passenger, fishing, and other commercial maritime-related services and support activities within the State of Hawaii and which serves to sustain and enhance the State’s economic prosperity and quality of life.

Thank you for considering this testimony in strong support.

Michael MacDonald

Vice President – Hawaii

American Marine Corporation (a Hawaii based corporation)

LATE

SR-194

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Testimony for PSM on 3/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Nishihara, Inouye, Gabbard and Senate Committee Members,

Please accept our support for SR194, urging the US Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate any dredging operations with DLNR.

The US Army should be equally accountable for mitigating any potential harm or damage to our critically important coral reefs, a public trust state resource. It's our understanding that past US Army dredging operations caused coral reef damage that may have been prevented or lessened, and that the replanting and recovery efforts that needed to be performed after the damage occurred, were expended by the state, rather than by the Army.

Private entities that damage coral reefs are held financially liable for any damage. The Army should not be exempt from such accountability, especially if the potential damage can be mitigated through direct coordination with DLNR.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.