

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3123

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 19 2024**

RE: H.B. No. 2523  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2523, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTRIC UTILITY LINEMAN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Beginning January 1, 2027, establish licensing requirements, including minimum standards and qualifications, for licensure as a journey worker electric utility lineman and expands the Board of Electricians and Plumbers to include members engaged in electric utility work; and
- (2) Repeal an existing exception to the impending sunset of the limited exemption from electrician licensing requirements that was originally enacted by Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, and extended pursuant to Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, and Act 68, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Hawaii State Energy Office; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



Local Union No. 1260; Plumbers and Fitters United Association, Local 675; and Hawaiian Electric.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 1186.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission, Board of Electricians and Plumbers, and Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative.

Your Committee finds that it is critical to protect the health and safety of the public and utility workers and improve and maintain Hawaii's electrical infrastructure. Your Committee further finds that these goals can be achieved through the development of a local workforce of properly qualified, trained, and licensed electric utility linemen. This measure will address the need for experienced and qualified linemen in the State who can perform certain complex maintenance and repair work affecting an electric utility.

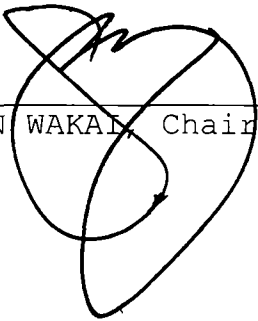
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Making it effective on July 1, 2027; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2523, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2523, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.



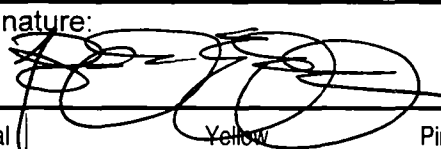
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GLENN WAKAI, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**  
**PSM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB2523 HD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PSM, CPN</b>	Date: <b>3/15/24</b>		
<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
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)			✓	
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
RHOADS, Karl		✓		
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
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