

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 977

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02, 2023

RE: H.B. No. 522
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 522, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to remove the ability of the Governor or a mayor to suspend electronic media transmission during a state of emergency or local state of emergency.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from one member of the Hawai'i County Council; the Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters, Inc.; The Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest; KITV4; Hawai'i News Now: KGMB-KHNL-K5; KHON2; Society of Professional Journalists, Hawai'i Chapter; League of Women Voters of Hawai'i; All Hawai'i News; Big Island Press Club; and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Grassroot Institute of Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that the constitutionality of the Governor's or a mayor's authority to suspend electronic media transmission during an emergency is highly questionable. This measure addresses the issue before any state action is taken that deprives the public and press of their First Amendment rights.

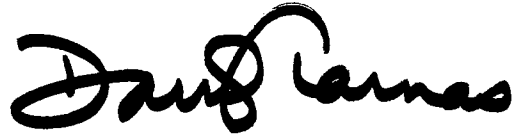
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As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 522, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



