

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

542

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 161
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 161
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Repeal statutory prohibition on certain employees that are exempt from civil service law from grieving a suspension or discharge; and
- (2) Adds language to allow any employee who is a member of an appropriate bargaining unit to grieve a suspension or discharge.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; Pride at Work-Hawai'i; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Human Resources Development. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Resources Development of the City and County of Honolulu.

2025-1717 HB161 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that there has been a substantial increase in exempt employees in the State. Your Committee also finds that under existing law, employees exempt from civil service law are classified as "at will" and do not have the right to file a grievance for a suspension or discharge. Your Committee believes that this measure supports the State's commitment to fair labor practices by providing a large portion of the State's workforce the right to grieve a suspension or discharge.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding specific language to include exempt employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 161, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 161, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor,



JACKSON D. SRYAMA, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 161		Committee Referral: LAB, FIN		Date: 2/11/25
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (C)	X			
2. LEE, Mike (VC)	X			
3. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	X			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	X			
5. KONG, Sam Satoru	X			
6. REYES ODA, Julie	X			
TOTAL (6)	6			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				