

ACT 59

S.B. NO. 1505

A Bill for an Act Relating to Transportation.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that illegal or harmful activity throughout the Pacific Ocean has been increasing. In many cases, foreign vessels have entered new areas of the Pacific Ocean to traffic illegal commodities. Other foreign vessels have frequently entered other nations' protected areas to collect resources to the detriment of local communities and are beginning to scout waters near Hawaii to conduct undersea mining that will irreparably harm Hawaii's undersea ecosystems.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to restrict vessels that have been engaged in specific unpermitted or unlicensed activities from entering or departing ports in the State's commercial harbor system.

SECTION 2. Chapter 266, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§266- Restriction of use of facilities. The department of transportation may delay or deny approval for port entry or departure for any vessel for which the department has received notice from a federal agency or other agency that the vessel or its crew has engaged in activity that has violated any federal, state, or county law or rule pertaining to environmental protection, maritime transportation, trafficking of illegal contraband, or the collection or extraction of undersea minerals unlicensed or unpermitted by the State; provided that the department may grant approvals for use of any commercial harbor facility by that vessel in coordination with the federal agency or other agency.”

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SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved June 5, 2023.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.