

Tug Recommendations for Anchoring Honolulu 7/16/2024

To All Honolulu Agents:

Effective immediately, the Hawaii Pilots Association (HPA) requires that all tankers 800 feet in length or greater take one assist tug for arrival into anchorage.

This policy will be in effect while HPA is discussing the issue with regulators. The concern is that there is a high risk of grounding on the Airport Runway Reef if there is an engine casualty during the final approach to the anchoring position. Note that in many instances, the reef is as close as 0.25 miles to the anchoring position, with strong currents in the area which affect vessel maneuverability. A tug assist tethered to the stern of the vessel is an effective risk mitigation tool that would be effective in helping to steer and stop the ship before it grounds.

An assist tug may also be ordered for any other vessel going to anchor based on the assigned Pilot's discretion. This decision may be made on weather or traffic conditions and will be communicated to the Agent as soon as possible.

In order to keep all parties informed of this general practice, it is encouraged that Shipping Agents inform vessel Owners and Operators of the anticipated costs associated with ordering a tug for all tankers LOA 800 feet or greater, regardless of loaded condition, prior to the vessel movement.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in providing increased safety for the Honolulu Harbor Pilotage Area.

Best regards,

Sinclair Brown
President, Hawaii Pilots Association