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A universal model for the interaction of long nonlinear waves and packets of short waves with long linear carrier waves is given by a system in which an equation of Korteweg-de Vries type is coupled to an equation of nonlinear Schrödinger type. The system has solutions of steady form in which one component is like a solitary-wave solution of the KdV equation and the other component is like a ground-state solution of the NLS equation. The existence of such solutions can be shown by variational methods in which the constraints are positive definite; however proving the stability of the solutions is more difficult because standard techniques require analyzing a variational problem in which the constraints are not positive definite. We give a sufficient condition for certain of the steady solutions to be stable. The result is related to recent work of Angulo and of Dias, Figueira, and Oliveira. (Received August 30, 2011)