



18 as director of commerce and consumer affairs.

17 shall not receive any salary in addition to the salary received

16 implementation of any new energy policy. The consumer advocate

15 protected and preserved at all times, including during the

14 that the public interest of the consumer of utility services is

13 including small businesses of utility services[-] to ensure

12 represent, protect, and advance the interests of all consumers[-]

11 utilities commission. The consumer advocate shall only

10 shall be the consumer advocate in hearings before the public

9 **consumer affairs.** The director of commerce and consumer affairs

8 **"§269-51 Consumer advocate; director of commerce and**

7 amended to read as follows:

6 SECTION 2. Section 269-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

5 utility services or a retail purchaser of gasoline."

4 "Consumer" refers to a person who is a ratepayer of public

3 and to read as follows:

2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted

1 SECTION 1. Section 269-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

RELATING TO THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 The responsibility for advocating on behalf of the
2 interests of the consumer of utility services shall be separate
3 and distinct from the responsibilities of the public utilities
4 commission and those assistants employed by the commission. As
5 consumer advocate, the director of commerce and consumer affairs
6 shall have full rights to participate as a party in interest to
7 represent the consumer in all proceedings before the public
8 utilities commission."
9 SECTION 3. Section 269-54, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:
11 "(a) The consumer advocate shall have the authority
12 expressly conferred by or reasonably implied from the provisions
13 of this part[-]; provided that the consumer advocate shall
14 represent only the consumer.
15 (b) The consumer advocate may:
16 (1) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to
17 effectuate the purposes of this part.
18 (2) Conduct investigations to secure information useful in
19 the lawful administration of any provision of this
20 part.
21 (3) Assist, advise, and cooperate with federal, state, and
22 local agencies and officials to protect and promote

1 the interests of the consumer in the public utilities

2 field.

3 (4) Study the operation of laws affecting all consumers [

4 including ~~small businesses~~] of utility services and

5 recommend to the governor and the legislature new laws

6 and amendments of laws in the consumers' interest in

7 the public utilities field.

8 (5) Organize and hold conferences on problems affecting

9 consumers of utility services.

10 (6) Perform such other acts as may be incidental to the

11 exercise of the functions, powers, and duties set

12 forth in this section.

13 (7) Represent the interests of consumers of utility

14 services before any state or federal agency or

15 instrumentality having jurisdiction over matters

16 [which] that affect [these] consumers' interests [.]

17 including matters relevant to chapters 486H and 486J."

18 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

21

W. B. Berg

INTRODUCED BY:

Minimum 2 months

HB LRB 06-0361.doc

JAN 24 2006

Anthony J. Hall
County Executive
Tommy White
Three Council



HB LRB 06-0361.doc

HB2621

Report Title:

Consumer Advocate; Representation

Description:

Clarifies that consumer advocate shall represent consumers only and that consumers are rate payers of public utility services or retail purchasers of gasoline.