

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 20, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2191

S.D. 2

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 2191, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to promote the public health and safety by requiring the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to conduct a statewide study focusing on one priority region per county where utility lines are prone to falling or damage, for the purpose of developing a plan, in consultation with utilities and communities, to place overhead utility lines underground.

Several concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Consumer Advocate and PUC submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that the damage caused by, and the extended power outages resulting from, downed utility lines is a matter of grave concern that significantly impacts upon the public health, safety, and welfare. It is therefore the belief of your Committee that this is a matter of civil defense, and that it should be the responsibility of the Civil Defense Division of the Department of Defense to undertake a study with regard to the undergrounding of utility lines on a statewide level.



Your Committee has amended this bill by changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2191, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2191, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: SB2191, SD2 (SSCR2750)	Committee Referral: CPC, FIN	Date: 03-10-08		
<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)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HERKES, Robert N. (C)	Y			
2. McKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	X			
3. EVANS, Cindy	X			
4. GREEN, Josh, M.D.				X
5. ITO, Ken				X
6. LUKE, Sylvia	X			
7. MORITA, Hermina M.	X			
8. SONSON, Alex M.				X
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.				X
10. TSUJI, Cliff	X			
11. YAMANE, Ryan I.	X			
12. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	X			
13. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.	X			
14. THIELEN, Cynthia	X			
TOTAL (14)	10	0	0	4
The recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted <small>If joint referral, _____ committee acronym(s) did not support recommendation.</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				