

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 710

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 6, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 1611

H.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1611, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LABELING OF MEAT AND FISH
PRODUCTS, "

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to promote truthful labeling of
meat and fish products by requiring such products that have been
gas-treated to be labeled with:

- (1) The type of gas used; and
- (2) A statement that the gas treatment was used to
approximate the appearance of freshness.

The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996 testified
in support of this bill. The Department of Agriculture supported
the intent of this measure. The Hawaii Food Industry Association
and Grocery Manufacturers Association opposed this bill. The
Department of Health provided comments.

Gas treatments can be used to enhance the color of meat and
fish and give them the appearance of freshness even when they have
high bacterial levels indicative of spoilage. This bill seeks to
ensure that gas-treated meat and fish products are labeled as such
to enable consumers to make informed purchases.

HB1611 HD2 HSCR CPC-JUD HMS 2009-2472



Your Committees have amended this bill by:

- (1) Removing references to:
 - (A) Meat or meat products derived from exotic animals;
and
 - (B) Gas treatments to enhance product color;

and

- (2) Changing the effective date to November 1, 2009.

Technical, nonsubstantive amendments were also made for clarity and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1611, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1611, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Consumer
Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary,



JON RIKI KARAMATSU, Chair



ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



