

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

749

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2009

RE: S.B. No. 1265
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 1265 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to improve food safety by requiring the accurate labeling of meat and fish products that have been gas-treated to enhance the product color or to approximate the appearance of freshness.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996. Testimony in opposition to this measure was received from the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Testimony with comments on this measure was received from the Department of Agriculture. Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that gas treatment, while not itself harmful, may alter the color of packaged meat or fish in such a way that makes it difficult for a consumer to tell whether the product is actually fresh or merely appears to be so. Your Committee notes that packaged meat or fish may contain high bacteria levels indicative of spoilage even though it has not passed the "use, sell, or freeze by" date stamped on the package.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

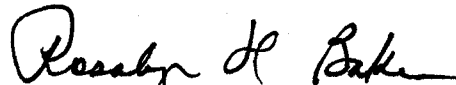
2009-1492 SSCR SMA.doc



- (1) Requiring the Department of Agriculture to post notice of the labeling requirement contained in this measure on its website;
- (2) Deferring the implementation of this measure to allow producers, retailers, and the Department of Agriculture sufficient time for compliance; and
- (3) Making minor, nonsubstantive technical changes for the purpose of clarity and accuracy in the language of this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1265, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1265, S.D. 1.

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

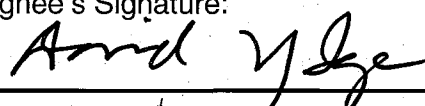


ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1265	Committee Referral: WTL, CPN	Date: 2/27/2009		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
IGE, David Y. (VC)	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh				✓
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	4			3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes