

SB 2427

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

Report Title: Public Utilities Commission; Best Practices; Appropriation

Description: Requires the Public Utilities Commission to implement best practices in the areas of regulatory frameworks, rules and procedures, and information technology and public access. Appropriates funds to implement best practices.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GREEN, KOUCHI, Dela Cruz, English, Espero, Fukunaga, Ige, Ihara, Kahele, Solomon, Taniguchi

Sort by Date		Status Text
1/20/2012	S	Introduced.
1/23/2012	S	Passed First Reading.
1/23/2012	S	Referred to CPN, WAM.
1/25/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 01-31-12 9:00AM in conference room 229.

TESTIMONY OF HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
JANUARY 31, 2012

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2427

TITLE: Relating to the Public Utilities Commission

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to increase the Commission's budget by up to \$85,000.00 for fiscal year ("FY") 2012-2013 to enable the Commission to implement best practices in the following areas: 1) use of innovative regulatory frameworks; 2) updating of administrative rules; and 3) improvement of internal workflow with new information technologies. The measure requires the Commission to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the progress of developing the required best practices.

POSITION:

The Commission supports the intent of the bill and would like to offer the following comments.

COMMENTS:

The Commission has worked hard over the last few years to update and implement internal processes that have shortened the time requirements for regulatory action, such as streamlining motor carrier and telecommunications service provider applications for authority to operate. The Commission has also focused much of its recent efforts on developing innovative regulatory frameworks, particularly relating to energy. These efforts have resulted in the ongoing implementation of a decoupling framework, a feed-in tariff framework, an energy efficiency portfolio standard framework, and an updated integrated resource plan framework. The Commission has also recently adopted new administrative rules for the Hawaii One Call Center, which is part of an internal initiative to update all of the Commission's administrative rules. Regarding the integration of new

information technology, the Commission launched its Document Management System ("DMS") in 2008, which enabled public on-line access for the first time ever to docketed documents, real time notification of Commission filings, targeted docket subscription services, and other useful forms of publicly accessible features. The Commission is now working on enhancing the system to increase user friendliness and to allow for electronic filing and payment. In accordance with Act 69, SLH 2011, the Commission intends on track to roll-out electronic filing and payment services on DMS by July 1, 2013.

The Commission appreciates the measure's funding allocation to assist with the implementing of best practices, but it would ask the Committee to consider whether the amount appropriated for FY2012-2013 is sufficient to cover the costs of integrating and carrying out best practices for "all [C]ommission activities, both internal and external." Finally, the Commission defers to the Legislature on whether it is better to appropriate funding for this measure from the general revenues of the State or from the public utilities commission special fund under HRS § 269-33.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2427

January 31, 2012

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Senate Bill No. 2427 requires the Public Utilities Commission to implement best practices in the areas of regulatory frameworks, rules and procedures, information technology and public access. This measure also appropriates \$85,000 from the general fund to carry out these purposes, including the hiring of necessary consultants.

The Department of Budget and Finance defers to the Public Utilities Commission on this matter; however, it is recommended that any appropriation associated with this measure be changed from general funds to Public Utilities special funds.