

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 27 2017RE: S.B. No. 655
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sirs:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 655, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDIA ACCESS,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to allow the news media, subject to certain conditions, to access areas that are closed pursuant to the emergency management powers of the Governor and Mayors.

Your Committee on Conference finds that a freely functioning news media is essential for maintaining a free and open society. The news media serves the invaluable purpose of relaying necessary and timely information to the public, and the need for this media role is even more urgent in an emergency or crisis situation. However, existing state laws do not ensure robust media access during emergency or crisis situations. Therefore, it is important



to update these laws to ensure the maximum access possible for news media during emergency situations. Accordingly, this measure:

- (1) Allows a duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, radio station, television station, or online news distribution network, under certain conditions, to enter an area closed pursuant to the emergency management powers of the Governor or Mayors, if providing media access is reasonable, safe, and does not hinder ongoing response and recovery activities; and
- (2) Specifies that the State, counties, and designated emergency management officials are not responsible for providing logistical support to news media accessing closed emergency areas.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:


- (1) Inserting language that limits the liability of the State and counties arising from media representatives entering a closed emergency area; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to upon its approval.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 655, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 655, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

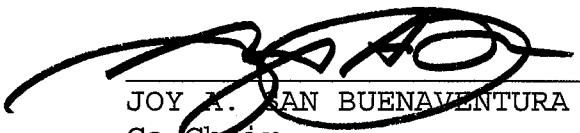
ON THE PART OF THE SENATE



 GREGG TAKAYAMA
 Co-Chair



 CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA
 Chair



 JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA
 Co-Chair



 GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN
 Co-Chair



Hawaii State Legislature

CUR 79

**Record of Votes of a
Conference Committee**

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: SB 655, SD 2, HD 2	Date/Time: 4/27/17 4:35 pm
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The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

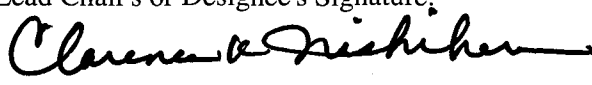
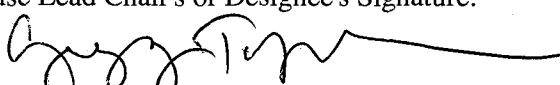
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure	<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.
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Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E	House Managers	A	WR	N	E
NISHIHARA, Clarence K., Chr.	/				TAKAYAMA, Gregg, Co-Chr.	/			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C., Co-Chr.	/				SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A., Co-Chr.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn				/	LOPRESTI, Matthew S.	/			
					THIELEN, Cynthia	/			
TOTAL	2	-	-	1	TOTAL	4	-	-	0

A = Aye WR = Aye with Reservations N = Nay E = Excused

Senate Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted	House Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted
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Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 	House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 
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