

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3777

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 17 2018

RE: H.C.R. No. 220

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 220 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO CODIFY A DEFINITION OF THE "PUBLIC INTEREST STANDARD" FOR THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the United States Congress and Federal Communications Commission to codify a definition of the "public interest standard" for the broadcasting industry.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities for the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Your Committees find that it is important that public airwaves be used to broadcast a broad range of viewpoints for the benefit of all members of the public. Your Committees also find that the Federal Communications Commission, the agency charged with governing communication policy decision-making at the federal level, has long employed the so-called "public interest standard" when regulating the broadcast industry. However, your Committees find that "public interest standard" has never been defined and has resulted in complaints that the Federal Communications Commission has relied on market forces rather than the public



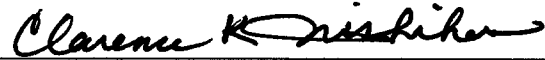
interest when regulating broadcasters. Your Committees find that the lack of a clear definition for the "public interest standard" has resulted in declining standards for broadcasters and that codifying a definition of the "public interest standard" would promote fairness and objectivity in broadcasting, which would greatly benefit the public.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 220, and recommend its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military  
Affairs and Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair





