

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2648
S.D. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2648, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Utilities Commission.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes guiding principles for the Commission;
- (2) Establishes docket review and decision-making processes;
- (3) Permits teleconference and videoconference abilities;
- (4) Specifies which senior staff members must file public financial disclosures;
- (5) Increases the number of Commissioners from three to five and updates the composition of the Commission;
- (6) Specifies training requirements for Commissioners;



- (7) Clarifies each Commissioner's ability to appoint and employ staff;
- (8) Clarifies the roles of the executive officer and chief counsel;
- (9) Permits neighbor island members to receive per diem compensation and compensation for travel expenses; and
- (10) Requires the Commission to report to the Legislature regarding certain staff duties.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Ulupono Initiative and one individual.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from the Public Utilities Commission and one individual.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Hawaii State Ethics Commission; and Hawaii Energy Policy Forum.

Your Committee finds that due to the Public Utilities Commission's increasing responsibilities and the evolution of the regulatory landscape, it is essential that the structure and operations of the Commission be updated to enable the Commission to operate more efficiently and effectively, consistent with best practices.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2648, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2648, S.D. 2.



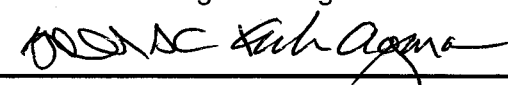
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2648, SDI	Committee Referral: CPH, WAM	Date: 2/23/18		
<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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	X			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	X			
HARIMOTO, Breene			X	
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
RIVIERE, Gil			X	
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.				X
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
TOTAL	8		2	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes