

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

137

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 7, 2019

RE: H.B. No. 759  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 759 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the expenditure  
of base amounts for the operating budgets of certain Department of  
Commerce and Consumer Affairs programs for fiscal year (FY) 2019-  
2020 and FY 2020-2021. Specifically, this measure authorizes the  
Department to expend the base amounts as follows:

Program		<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
<u>ID</u>	<u>Program</u>		
CCA103	Consumer Advocate for Communication, Utilities, and Transportation Services		
	Position Ceiling:	23.00*	23.00*
	Operating:	\$4,228,537B	\$4,228,537B



Program ID	Program	FY 2020	FY 2021
CCA110	Office of Consumer Protection		
	Position Ceiling:	18.00*	18.00*
		2.00#	2.00#
	Operating:	\$2,684,968B	\$2,684,968B
		\$100,681T	\$100,681T
CC901	Public Utilities Commission		
	Position Ceiling:	65.00*	65.00*
	Operating:	\$15,470,219B	\$15,470,219B

The abbreviations and letter symbols have the following meanings:

- \* Permanent full-time equivalent
- # Temporary full-time equivalent
- B Special Funds
- T Trust Funds

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Public Utilities Commission testified in support of this measure.

Your Committee notes that the Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA) represents, protects, and advances the interests of consumers of utility and transportation services before the regulatory agencies, but primarily the Public Utilities Commission. While the DCA continues to advance the interests of consumers in the State, the DCA does so while struggling to fill vacancies due to the positions' technical and specific qualifications. Your Committee finds that the DCA may better serve the people of Hawaii by restructuring some of the vacant positions that have proven to be difficult to fill.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) Public Utilities Rate Analyst V positions from the DCA (CCA103); and
- (2) Reducing the operating budget for the DCA (CCA103) by \$130,492 to \$4,098,045 for both FY 2020 and FY 2021 to reflect the reduction in positions.



Finally, your Committee notes that the amendments to this measure only reflect the removal of vacant positions that have been difficult to fill. Other measures before the Legislature will address the appropriate number and types of positions that should be added to the DCA (CCA103) to properly address the DCA's increasing workload needs.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 759, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 759, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



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ROY M. TAKUMI, Chair



