

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 507

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2019

RE: S.B. No. 1329
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred S.B. No. 1329 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Align the salary of the Public Utilities Commission
Chairperson with the highest pay tier of a supervising
deputy attorney general; and
- (2) Align the salary of the other Public Utilities
Commissioners with the lowest pay tier of the first
deputy attorney general.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of
Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer
Affairs, Public Utilities Commission, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the Public Utilities Commission
protects the public interest by overseeing and regulating public
utilities to ensure they provide reliable service at reasonable
and just rates. Furthermore, the Commission's workload has grown
substantially, particularly in the electricity sector where



complex issues relating to the State's one hundred percent renewable energy portfolio standard and other energy policies continue to be investigated. Given the Commission's complex scope of work, it is important that the State raise the salaries of the Public Utilities Commission Chairperson and other commissioners to attract and retain the most qualified candidates for these positions. A salary increase will also help mitigate the significant travel expenses of candidates who are residents of neighbor islands who must often travel to Honolulu to carry out their duties as commissioners.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission shall be paid a salary equal to the highest pay tier of the first deputy attorney general of the Department of the Attorney General; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1329, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1329, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

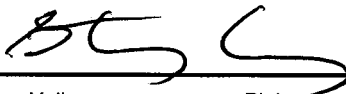


ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1329	CPH, WAM	2/11/19		
<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
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	✓			
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	6			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes