

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2687

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2818
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2818 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require, and appropriate funds for, the Public Utilities Commission to contract with the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii to conduct a study regarding renewable gas to determine economic and technical feasibility of the use of renewable gas by gas utility companies.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; University of Hawai'i System; Hawaii State Energy Office; Hawaii Bioeconomy Trade Organization; Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas; Hawai'i Gas; Par Hawaii; Ulupono Initiative; Blue Planet Foundation; Hawaii Electric Company, Inc.; and fourteen individuals. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Life of the Land, 350Hawaii, Progressive Democrats of Hawaii, Our Revolution Hawaii, and four individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission.



Your Committees find that Hawaii's energy sector is transitioning to renewable energy as a means to expand and diversify the State's economy, environment, and security, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Your Committees believe that to complete the transition to renewable energy completely and successfully, and to ensure consumers are not harmed by unreasonably increasing energy costs, it is important that all relevant entities are aligned to the extent economically feasible. This measure will assist the State in reaching its renewable energy goals by requiring a study to attain additional information regarding the feasibility of the State's renewable energy goals.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Hawaii State Energy Office, instead of the Public Utilities Commission, to conduct an independent renewable gas study;
- (2) Clarifying that the study considers required regulated and unregulated gas utilities company infrastructure improvements and additions;
- (3) Clarifying that the study of any renewable gas policy framework should ensure the timely recovery of reasonable costs attributable to renewable gas;
- (4) Changing the source of funding for the study from the public utilities commission special fund to the energy security special fund; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

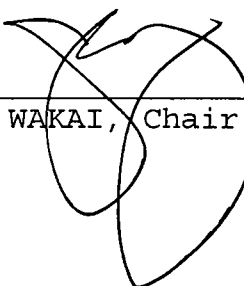
As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2818, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2818, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy, Economic
Development, and Tourism and
Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair

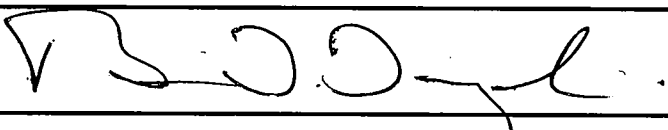


GLENN WAKAI, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
EET

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2818	Committee Referral: EET/CPH, WAM	Date: 2/10/2020		
<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
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (VC)	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	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

