



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 25, 2019
2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 759, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA or Department). The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of DCCA program IDs CCA-103 (Division of Consumer Advocacy), CCA-107 (Hawaii Post-Secondary Education Authorization Program), CCA-110 (Office of Consumer Protection), CCA-111 (Business Registration Division), CCA-112 (Regulated Industries Complaints Office), and CCA-191 (General Support), under the purview of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.¹ H.D. 1: (1) removes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) Public Utilities

¹ With respect to CCA-901, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), as an independent attached agency, will present testimony separately regarding its budget requests.

Rate Analyst V positions from the Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA); and (2) reduces the operating budget for the DCA by \$130,492 to \$4,098,045 for both fiscal year (FY) 2020 and FY 2021 to reflect the reduction in positions. This version of the bill reflects only the removal of vacant positions that the DCA has found difficult to fill, due to its inability to find qualified candidates to fill those vacancies.

The Department notes that other measures before the Legislature will address the appropriate number and types of positions that should be added to the DCA to properly address the division's increasing workload, both in terms of volume and complexity, and its cases before the PUC. The DCA's reserves and anticipated revenues should be sufficient to cover its base budget and requested additional positions, without affecting the Public Utilities Fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII



TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

February 25, 2019
2:30 p.m.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 759 HD1

TITLE: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS.

DESCRIPTION: Appropriates funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs programs under the purview of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce. (HB759 HD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission is in **support** of this measure offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) is in support of this measure. As an agency administratively attached to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Commission respectfully recommends this bill ensure the Commission’s base budget of \$15,470,219 for both fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 is included in the appropriation for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The Commission has separately provided testimony for HB No. 1360 HD1 that describes the Commission’s requested budget additions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.