



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SCOTT J. GLENN  
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## Testimony of **SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

### In SUPPORT of **SB 2561** **RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2561, which would require retailers of household appliances to conspicuously display signage on energy-using household appliances to inform consumers of available efficiency rebates and Hawaii-specific energy costs of operation.

The HSEO, in collaboration with the Public Benefits Fee Administrator (PBFA), would notify all affected retailers of the requirements of this section. HSEO is currently in discussions with the PBFA regarding their current and anticipated plans for energy labeling home appliances in Hawaii that are energy efficient and currently receive rebates from the PBFA.

Supplying information about available rebates and energy costs would enable consumers to make wise choices by choosing products yielding long-term savings as opposed to choosing solely on lowest first cost. According to the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, the purchase of high-efficiency air conditioning, refrigeration, cooking, clothes washing and drying, and dishwashing is a major boon to consumers. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy reports that efficiency measures saved Americans \$800 billion, or \$2,500 per person, in 2014 alone.[1] Since Hawaii's electricity rates are 2.5 times higher, this translates to some \$6,250 for each Hawaii resident while contributing to Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[1] <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/e1502.pdf>

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

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

February 20, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 2561

**TITLE:** RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION.

**DESCRIPTION:** Requires retailers of household appliances to conspicuously display available energy efficiency rebates and state-specific energy operation costs. Effective 10/1/2020.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission supports efforts to promote the use of energy efficient appliances in the state. Requiring retailers to conspicuously display signage or text on household appliances would further the state's ability to educate consumers about the benefits of energy efficiency, including reduced energy costs and available rebates.

The Commission is working with the Public Benefits Fee Administrator ("Hawai'i Energy") to ensure that Hawai'i Energy is prepared to provide outreach, education, and assistance to retailers to help them comply with the requirements described in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 18, 2020

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health  
Hawaii Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Stanley Chang  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health  
Hawaii Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 2561, relating to consumer protection -- OPPOSE

Dear Chairwoman Baker and Vice Chair Chang:

The Association for Home Appliance Manufacturers appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2561, relating to displaying available energy efficiency rebates for all retailers of household appliances. **The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is opposed to SB 2561.** While the measure requires all retailers of home appliances to display available energy efficiency rebates and state-specific energy operation costs, this measure would impact the products that manufacturers sell to retailers.

AHAM represents manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry. AHAM's membership includes over 150 companies throughout the world. In the U.S., AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances shipped for sale. The factory shipment value of these products is more than \$30 billion annually. The home appliance industry, through its products and innovation, is essential to improving a person's lifestyle and health, and saving people time. Through its technology, employees, and productivity, the industry contributes significantly to U.S. jobs and economic security. Home appliances also are a success story in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection. New appliances often represent the most effective choice a consumer can make to reduce home energy use and costs.

The measure would be duplicating the information already required by the Federal Trade Commission. Federal rules already mandate the display of the EnergyGuide yellow label on certain new appliances, which display the estimated energy use, appliance's key features, ENERGY STAR logo, and cost data to help consumers' comparison shop for energy-efficient appliances. This duplicative labeling requirement would be unnecessarily costly, confusing for consumers and increasingly distracting from important information such as safety.

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to comment on Hawaii Senate Bill 2561 and would be glad to further discuss these matters.



TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
February 20, 2020

Re: SB 2561 Relating to Consumer Protection

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii opposes SB 2561 Relating to Consumer Protection. This measure requires retailers of household appliances to conspicuously display available energy efficiency rebates and state-specific energy operation costs with an effective date of 10/1/2020.

With the internet and online shopping, many consumers research the appliance before coming into a brick and mortar store and are well versed in the energy cost savings as well as the rebates that are offered.

**While we support energy efficiency rebates, it would be difficult for local retailers, especially the small mom & pop stores to have numerous signage with at least ½ inch font as well as maintain a listing of all of the different energy rebates for a variety of household appliances available especially those that are online or outside the EPA listing.** Retailers have a limited amount of space to display the appliances, let alone pricing and information for each individual appliance. Retailers are already short staffed and to keep the listing of energy rebates current would need to be a daily occurrence.

**We feel that this measure would be duplicating the information already provided by the FTC.** Federal rules already mandate the display of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) yellow labeling on new appliances displaying the estimated energy use and cost data to help consumers make informed purchases. The FTC label also shows the appliance's key features (with similar models determining the cost comparison range) as well as an ENERGY STAR logo (if the appliance is ENERGY STAR certified).

**We also question who would determine the Hawaii specific energy costs for operations considering that each island's kilo watt hour varies as well as what the energy cost would be if the resident has solar or PV.**

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:04:58 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Climate Protector	Testifying for Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2020

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Conference Room 229

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
The Climate Protectors Coalition Supports SB2561!

We are a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing

the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

Providing consumers with appliance energy consumption information conspicuously displayed is good for consumers and for the planet. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!



**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:47:04 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:53:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

education is power.

this bill will help consumers be educated about their purchases and how they can save money while protecting earth's natural resources.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie



**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:20:37 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: