STAND. COM. REP. NO. 020

Honolulu, Hawaii

## MAR 1 9 2021

H.B. No. 941 RE:

> H.D. 1 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2021 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 941, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow the Public Utilities Commission to use electronic filing processes and similar practices.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Public Utilities Commission, and Hawaiian Electric Company. Committee received comments on this measure from the Disability and Communications Access Board.

Your Committee finds that existing state law requires parties to provide both hard copies and electronic copies when filing documents with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Prior to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, over ninety-five percent of the Commission's docketed filings were on paper and were received either in-person or via mail. Filings to the Commission are often very lengthy, sometimes exceeding ten thousand pages and filling up to ten to fifteen boxes in their hardcopy forms. Certain emergency orders issued by the Governor

as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic enabled the Commission to allow for all-electronic filings, which has proven to be successful and saved utility companies considerable time and administrative costs. This measure codifies this modernized practice to enable the Commission to receive one hundred percent of its docketed filings through electronic means to allow the Commission to conduct business safely and more efficiently.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language requiring the Public Utilities
  Commission to conform its electronically filed documents
  and its electronic filing processes to comply with the
  Americans with Disabilities Act and all existing federal
  laws and regulations to ensure equal access for
  individuals with disabilities;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2022; and
- (3) 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 and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 941, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 941, H.D. 1, 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 and Consumer Protection,

ROSALYN H $oldsymbol{\mathcal{O}}$ BAKER, Chair

## The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawai'i

## Record of Votes Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:		D	Date:	
HB 941 HD1	CPM, WAM		C	03.16.2021	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)					
CHANG, Stanley (VC)		/			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.					
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.		/			
RIVIERE, Gil	·	7.			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A	١.				
FEVELLA, Kurt		/			
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TOTAL		7			
Recommendation:  Adopted  Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
<b>Distribution:</b> Original File with Committee Re	Yellow		Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod ncy Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes