

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **593** -22

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2022

RE: H.B. No. 2139
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 2139, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to regulate the process for application screening fees for dwellings made available for rent under the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Department of Human Services, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Partners In Care. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that rental units serve a vital role in ensuring residents of the State have housing. However, under existing law, prospective tenants are not protected from and are susceptible to being assessed excessively large application fees. These application fees can range from \$50 to \$100, although the actual cost of performing any of the necessary background or

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credit checks on a prospective tenant range from \$10 to \$25. This measure will curb this unscrupulous practice by requiring unused application fees to be returned to applicants.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2139, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



AARON LING JOHANSON, Chair



