

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1428**-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24, 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2644
S.D. 2
H.D. 2

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 S.B. No. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Extend until June 30, 2033, the limited exemption from licensing requirements for qualified electricians that was originally enacted by Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, and extended pursuant to Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018; and
- (2) Make permanent the requirement for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers to submit reports to the Legislature relating to high voltage electrical work.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaiian Electric Company, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1260, and Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Board of Electricians and Plumbers, Contractors License Board, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186.

2022-2485 SB2644 HD2 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the electrical infrastructure of the State is aging. The construction and maintenance of the State's electrical infrastructure require specialized high voltage workers. Your Committee notes that there continues to be debate about whether there is a shortage of electricians, splicers, and linemen in the State who are experienced and qualified to work with high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) and who can perform certain complex maintenance and repair work affecting an electric utility.

Your Committee also finds that high voltage electric utility workers are in high demand throughout the country and there may be times when it is necessary for an electric utility to contract and retain qualified personnel from other jurisdictions in the United States to perform high voltage work. To address this ongoing situation, this measure extends the limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals qualified to perform high voltage utility work. However, your Committee notes the concerns raised in testimony that this measure may be overly broad. Amendments to this measure are therefore necessary to limit the scope and applicability of the exemption.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting substation work as a category of work for which high voltage electrical workers are eligible for the exemption;
- (2) Extending the sunset date for the exemption to June 30, 2028, rather than June 30, 2033; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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 S.B. No. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.



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



AARON LING JOHANSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>SB 2644, SD2, HD1</i>		Committee Referral: <i>LAT, CPC, FIN</i>		Date: <i>3/22/22</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
CPC Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. JOHANSON, Aaron Ling (C)		✓			
2. KITAGAWA, Lisa (VC)		✓			
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.		✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.			✓		
5. HASHEM, Mark J.					✓
6. KONG, Sam Satoru			✓		
7. MIZUNO, John M.					✓
8. MORIKAWA, Dee		✓			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.		✓			
10. TARNAS, David A.		✓			
11. MATSUMOTO, Lauren		✓			
TOTAL (11)		<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					