

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2022

RE: S.R. No. 133
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.R. No. 133 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS' DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A HAWAII LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH PAYING FOR THEIR HOME ENERGY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy, to convene a working group to create a Hawaii Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to assist low-income households with paying for their home energy.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii State Energy Office, and Hawaiian Electric Company. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee finds that the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program was created to provide qualifying households with assistance to pay for their utility bills, but the number of



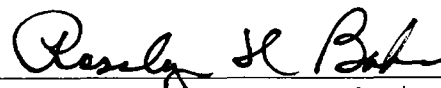
households receiving assistance ultimately depends on the federal funds allocated to the State for the year. Often times, those receiving assistance under the program make up only a fraction of the households that are facing energy insecurity and possible service disconnection. This measure requests the convening of a working group to create a Hawaii Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program as an additional source of funds to provide assistance for those experiencing economic hardships and energy insecurity.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the members of the working group include one representative from the Department of Human Services' Division of Benefit, Employment and Support Services, and a representative from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services;
- (2) Updating the list of persons to receive certified copies of this measure accordingly; 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 concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 133, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 133, S.D. 1.

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




ROSALYN H. 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:	Date:		
SR 133	CPN	03-24-2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	✓			
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	7			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes