



February 7, 2023

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

**RE: Senate Bill 1327 – RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Hearing date: February 7, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Young Brothers, LLC (“YB”) offering **STRONG SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 1327 – Relating to the Use of Electronic Filing by the Public Utilities Commission.

YB is a common carrier by water, transporting property by tug and barge between the islands of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, and Lāna‘i. YB is currently the only water carrier authorized to transport property under Chapter 271G, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) (i.e., the Hawaii Water Carrier Act), subject to the regulatory authority of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii (“PUC”). Since 1900, customers across Hawaii have relied on YB’s frequent, regular, and universal sailings to serve as the bridge that connects all communities in this island-state.

This measure would authorize the PUC to use electronic filing processes, including electronic service of documents to conform to the provisions of HRS Chapters 269, 271, and 271G and current practices.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PUC filing process often required YB to create multiple hard-copies of documents that were often thousands of pages. These hard-copies would then be hand-delivered to the PUC in boxes, via hand-truck or wagon to meet filing deadlines. Additionally, YB was often required to provide the PUC with a burned disc containing a scanned copy of the original document. This filing process was redundant, and often extremely time and resource consuming, particularly for larger filings. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PUC issued a temporary order to allow for electronic filings. While there was an initial learning curve, the overall result has been a dramatically streamlined and efficient filing process. The amendments proposed in this measure will enable the PUC to make this process permanent.

For the reasons stated above, YB offers **STRONG SUPPORT** for this measure.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii, and for the opportunity to testify offering comments on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kris Nakagawa  
Vice President, External and Legal Affairs

TESTIMONY OF  
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.  
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 7, 2023  
9:15 a.m.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 1327

**TITLE:** RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

**DESCRIPTION:** Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to use electronic filing processes, including electronic service of documents, to conform to the provisions of chapters 269, 271, and 271G, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and current practices.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") strongly supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

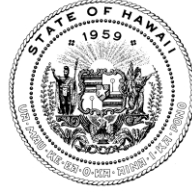
**COMMENTS:**

The Commission strongly supports this administration bill that would authorize electronic filing of documents by and with the Commission.

Various provisions in HRS Chapters 269, 271 and 271G currently require the Commission to employ hard copy service or filing. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, over 95% of the Commission's docketed filings were on paper and were received in-person or via mail. The paper filings were then scanned by Commission staff into the document management system for internal distribution, public accessibility and record retention. In addition, the filing agencies often set aside staff to print the paper documents, generate copies, meet in-person to sign their various documents, and hand-deliver the filings to the Commission. Filings to the Commission are often very lengthy, sometimes exceeding 10,000 pages and filling 10 to 15 boxes.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's emergency orders, the Commission issued a temporary order, Order No. 37043, to allow for all-electronic filings. This allowed the Commission to conduct business safely and efficiently during the COVID-19 pandemic, enhancing regulatory processes and creating better outcomes for the Commission and its staff, as well as external stakeholders, regulated utilities, and the general public. The proposed statutory amendments will enable the Commission to make these operational improvements permanent, so that the Commission can fulfill its statutory duties as efficiently and effectively as possible into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850  
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO  
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
9:15 a.m.  
Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1327, RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING  
BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Acting Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to use electronic filing processes, including electronic service of documents, to conform to the provisions of chapters 269, 271, and 271G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and current practices.

Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 72), authorized the Commission to utilize electronic filing processes, initially implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill makes various housekeeping amendments to fully authorize electronic filing and accompanying electronic transmission of service of process by the Commission and

parties within its jurisdiction and builds upon Act 72 to fully conform the Commission's statute to current practices.

The Commission's modernized filing practice has proven successful, and the Department supports this housekeeping measure to fully implement Act 72.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.



Written Statement of  
**Steven Golden**  
Vice President – External Affairs

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

February 7, 2023

9:15 a.m.

**SUPPORT FOR:**

**S.B. 1327 – RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING BY THE PUBLIC**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

To: Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee  
Re: Testimony providing support for SB 1327

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1327, which authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to use electronic filing processes, including electronic service of documents, to conform to the provisions of Chapters 269, 271, and 271G, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

The Public Utilities Commission issued a temporary order, Order No. 37043, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor’s emergency orders. Order No. 37043 allowed regulated utilities such as Hawaiian Telcom to submit electronic filings rather than paper filings. These greatly streamlined regulatory filings with the Public Utilities Commission, making our filings more efficient and less time consuming. SB 1327 will enable the Public Utilities Commission to make these operational improvements permanent, resulting in operational efficiencies for the Public Utilities Commission and regulated utilities.

Hawaiian Telcom strongly supports SB 1327 and respectfully requests that your Committee pass this measure.