

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2654
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 2654, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING CODES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Clarify that no state or county building code can prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in compliance with any applicable safety standards and use conditions; and
- (2) Require the State Building Code Council to establish codes and standards consistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents; Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and Environmental Investigation Agency.



Your Committee finds that hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are primarily used as refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigerators and are also used in applications such as fire suppressants, solvents, foam blowing agents, and aerosols. HFCs are greenhouse gases with global warming potentials that can be hundreds to thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide. Their use has been rapidly increasing worldwide due to the global phaseout of ozone-depleting substances and increased demand for refrigeration and air conditioning. In many cases, alternatives are available or under development that are either non-fluorinated or are HFC and HFC blends with lower global warming potentials than the HFC or HFC blends they replace.

Your Committee further finds that the federal American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 7657) authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency to address HFCs by providing new authorities in three main areas: to phase down the production and consumption of listed HFCs, manage these HFCs and their substitutes, and facilitate the transition to next-generation technologies through sector-based restrictions. This measure ensures that substances determined to be appropriate refrigerant substitutes may be used in the State by eliminating the barrier posed by applicable building codes and standards.

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. 2654, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 864-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2654 HDI	Committee Referral: WAL/EEP, CPC	Date: 02-27-24
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold
 Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	/			
2. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. BELATTI, Della Au	/			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	/			
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia	/			
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega				/
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.	/			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	/			
10. TAM, Adrian K.	/			
11. PIERICK, Elijah	/			
TOTAL (11)	10			1

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
 committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 

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