

ACT 127

H.B. NO. 1562

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Office of Consumer Protection.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Chapter 487, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 487-5 General functions, powers and duties of the office. The director of the office of consumer protection is hereby designated the consumer counsel for the State and shall represent and protect the State, the respective counties, and the general public as consumers. The office of consumer protection shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

- (1) Coordinate the consumer protection activities of all departments, divisions and branches of state government, and of branches of the county government concerned with consumer protection;
- (2) Assist, advise and cooperate with federal, state and local agencies and officials to protect and promote the interests of the consumer public;
- (3) Conduct investigations, research, studies and analysis of matters and take appropriate action affecting the interests of consumers;
- (4) Study the operation of laws affecting consumers and recommend to the governor and the Legislature, new laws and amendments of laws in the consumers' interest;
- (5) Investigate reported or suspected violations of laws enacted, and rules and regulations promulgated for the purpose of consumer protection and shall enforce such laws, rules and regulations;
- (6) Organize and hold conferences on problems affecting consumers; and undertake activities to encourage business and industry to maintain high standards of honesty, fair business practices, and public responsibility in the production, promotion and sale of consumer goods and services;
- (7) Provide a central clearing house of information by collecting and compiling all consumer complaints and inquiries;
- (8) Organize, promote and conduct consumer education programs within the State;
- (9) Appear before governmental commissions, departments and agencies to represent and be heard on behalf of consumers' interest;
- (10) Contract with other county, state or federal governmental agencies, with nonprofit social services societies, or with private nonprofit trade, professional, or business organizations which were in existence for more than five years prior to the passage of this Act, for the performance of any of the functions of the office not involving the enforcement of rules and regulations for the purpose of consumer protection under this section, or the extension of any power or authority under section 487-11, within the budget limitations for any period not exceeding a budget year, provided, however, that the purposes and policies of this chapter are in no way diluted, abridged, misdirected, or destroyed;
- (11) Perform such other acts as may be incidental to the exercise of the functions, powers and duties set forth in this section.

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 3, 1974.)

*Edited accordingly.