

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

551

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 978

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which
was referred H.B. No. 978, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTRIC UTILITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allow the Public Utilities
Commission to appoint a receiver to take temporary action
necessary to assure continued service or to bring the service up
to appropriate regulatory standards when a regulated investor-
owned electric utility is failing, or there is an imminent threat
of the utility failing.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the Public
Utilities Commission and Hawai'i Gas.

Your Committee finds that electric service is critical for
daily life for every person in the State. The permanent loss of
electricity, such as in the event of a complete company collapse,
could endanger everything from public safety infrastructure to
personal health equipment.

Your Committee further finds that utility receivership is a
critical tool for protecting utility customers in only the most

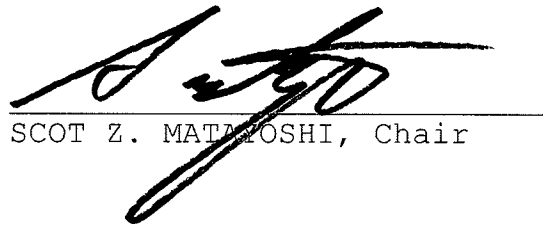
2025-1756 HB978 HD1 HSCR HMSO



extreme circumstances, such as a complete company collapse. Under a receivership, an appointed person is authorized to take temporary action necessary to assure continued adequate utility services. However, under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission is only authorized to appoint a receiver for a water or sewer utility, not an electric utility. This measure authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to appoint a receiver for electric utilities in the most extreme circumstances.

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. 978, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



SCOT Z. MATSUMOTO, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 557

Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">HB 978, HD1</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">EEP, CPC, FIN</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">2/11/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is)</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD)</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Hold</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) </div>				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (C)	✓			
2. CHUN, Cory M. (VC)	✓			
3. ILAGAN, Greggor	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco	✓			
6. KONG, Sam Satoru	✓			
7. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
8. MARTEN, Lisa	✓			
9. TAM, Adrian K.	✓			
10. PIERICK, Elijah	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div> </div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				