

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1473

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1500
S.D. 2
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 S.B. No. 1500, S.D. 2, 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:

- (1) Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to appoint a receiver to take temporary action, should the Commission find it necessary, to assure continued adequate electric services from a failing investor-owned electric utility; and
- (2) Require a receiver to recognize and maintain any existing collective bargaining agreement at the time of and throughout receivership and prohibit the receiver from inducing or causing a reduction in force, or terminating a covered employee, other than for cause consistent with the collective bargaining agreement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260. Your

2025-2830 SB1500 HD1 HSCR HMSO



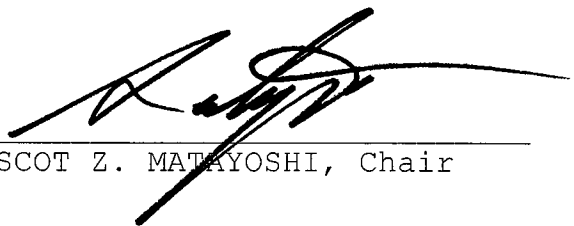
Committee received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission and Hawaiian Electric.

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 extreme circumstances, such as a complete company collapse. Under a receivership, an appointed person is authorized to take temporary action necessary to assure adequate utility services are continued. 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 S.B. No. 1500, S.D. 2, 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. MATAYOSHI, Chair



