

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1091

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 23, 2009

RE: S.B. No. 878
S.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 878, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLICATION OF HEARING NOTICES, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve government efficiency by providing that Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hearing notices regarding proposed changes in public utility rates need only be published in the counties served by the utility rather than statewide.

PUC testified in support of this bill.

Under section 269-16(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), contested case hearings held in connection with any increase in utility rates must be preceded by a public hearing. Section 269-12(c), HRS, requires PUC to provide statewide notices of these hearings, even if the subject public utility and affected customers are located in one county. By restricting the notice requirement to only the counties affected by the public utility's proposal, this measure will lower PUC's publication costs by as much as 50 percent per fiscal year while still ensuring that notice is provided to those affected by the proposed activity.

SB878 SD1 HSCR CPC HMS 2009-3083



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. 878, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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



ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



