

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2015

RE: S.B. No. 752

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which
was referred S.B. No. 752 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require
telecommunications carriers to release individuals from shared or
family wireless plans, without charge, upon written request in
documented instances of domestic violence.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i;
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i; Hawaii State
Commission on the Status of Women; Hawaii State Coalition Against
Domestic Violence; Domestic Violence Action Center; PHOCUSED; and
one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition
to this measure from CTIA - The Wireless Association.

Your Committee finds that victims of domestic violence often
find themselves struggling to escape their abusive situations.
Being forced to share a continued wireless service plan with an
abuser makes it even more difficult for a victim of domestic
violence to leave. Abusers will often manipulate their partners
through cellular phones in ways that have significant safety and
financial implications for victims.

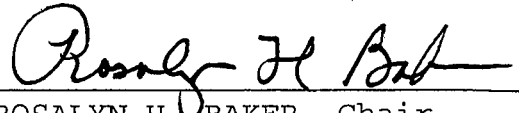
Your Committee further finds that although wireless service
providers do permit cancellation or removal of phone numbers or
phones from a shared wireless plan, such cancellation or removal



may come with substantial fees and charges that act as a barrier to leaving a violent situation. This measure eases a domestic violence victim's financial burden, reduces the potential for negative marks on a credit score, and increases safety by permitting victims of domestic violence to opt out of wireless contractual obligations.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 752 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

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



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

*Only one measure per Record of Votes