

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2966**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2561

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred S.B. No. 2561 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require
retailers of household appliances to conspicuously display on the
appliances information regarding available energy efficiency
rebates and state-specific energy operation costs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii State Energy Office, Climate Protectors Coalition,
Blue Planet Foundation, Pacific Resource Partnership, and three
individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to
this measure from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and the
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities
Commission.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii businesses and residents pay
the highest electricity rates in the nation, exacerbating the
already high cost of living. Supplying information about
available rebates and energy costs would enable consumers to make
wise choices when selecting products that yield long-term savings
as opposed to choosing a product solely based on the cost.
According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy,
efficiency measures saved Americans \$800 billion in 2014 alone.

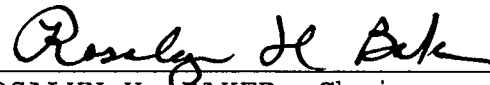


Because Hawaii's electricity rates are two and one-half times higher, this measure will help consumers make more informed decisions and save consumers money by providing more accurate cost information on available rebates in the State and will further contribute to Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals.

Your Committee notes that the Public Benefits Fee Administrator (PBFA) is working with the Hawaii State Energy Office and the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that the PBFA is prepared to provide outreach, education, and assistance to retailers to help them comply with the requirements of this measure and to address any legitimate concerns of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2561 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



