STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1654-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 3 1 , 2022

RE: H.C.R. No. 49

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2022 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 49 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS' DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A HAWAII LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH PAYING FOR THEIR HOME ENERGY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy, to convene a working group to create a Hawaii Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to assist low-income households with paying for their home energy.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services, Hawaii State Energy Office, and Hawaiian Electric Company. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission and one individual.

2022-2667 HCR49 HD1 HSCR HMSO

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's electricity rates are one of the highest in the nation, at close to three times the national average, and vary based on availability of renewable resources, power plants, fuel costs, and pricing regulations. While the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program assists lowincome households that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, benefits cannot be distributed once funds run out for the year. Therefore, establishing a state Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program would create additional assistance for households experiencing energy insecurity in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1)Adding a representative from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services to the working group; and
- Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 49, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 49, H.D. 1.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

for NICOLE E. LOWEN,

2022-2667 HCR49 HD1 HSCR HMSO

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-first Legislature

HSER1654-22

Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: HCR 49	Committee Referral	:	Date: 3/24/6	22
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: ☐ Pass, unamended (as is) ☐ Pass, with amendments (HD) ☐ Hold ☐ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ау	es Ayes (W	R) Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)				
2. MARTEN, Lisa (VC)				ian ya Solon Nasil West
2 HACHEM Monk I				
3. HASHEM, Mark J.				
4. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.				
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	The second secon		mar et till till til til som skiller som skiller som skiller om ett miller skiller skiller skiller skiller ski I	
6. TODD, Chris		7		
7. TOKIOKA, James Kunane		1 Der velanden kales (Kentre)		
8. MATSUMOTO, Lauren		<u> </u>		
o. MAISOMOTO, Lauren				
TOTAL (8)	8	,		
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: Much E Force				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				