STAND. COM. REP. NO.

340

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2023

MAR 02

RE: H.B. No. 797 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 797 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Improve Hawaii consumers' access to qualified certified public accountants, wherever those certified public accountants may reside; and
- (2) Protect Hawaii's consumers by granting the Board of Public Accountancy clear disciplinary power over all certified public accountants conducting business in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Island Plastic Bags, Inc.; CW Associates, CPAs; KPMG LLP; Ernst & Young LLP; Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants; and sixteen individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Board of Public Accountancy; Hawaii Association of Public Accountants; Niwao & Roberts, CPAs; Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC; and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that every state, except Hawaii, has enacted a mobility law, which facilitates the ability of consumers and businesses in the State to obtain services from qualified certified public accountants licensed in other states. Your Committee further finds that the lack of a mobility law limits access to qualified accountancy services, especially in certain complex industries, including energy, health care, transportation, and technology. This measure will facilitate the mobility of out-of-state certified public accountants and increase access to quality accountancy services for Hawaii consumers.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that implied a practice privilege may be renewed; and
- (2) 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 Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 797, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 797, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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

ADK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 797	Committee Referral:		Date: 07-28-23	
☐ 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)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	/			
2. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (VC)				
3. AMATO, Terez				
4. BELATTI, Della Au	_			
5 HACHEM Mark I				
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia				
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega			2.7	
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.				
O ONICHI Dishard H I/				
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.				
10. TAM, Adrian K.	James Command			
11. PIERICK, Elijah				
TOTAL (11)	7	1		3
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				