STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1715

Honolulu, Hawaii MAR 28 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1291 S.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 1291, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish an alternative pathway to licensure for certified public accountant license applicants by permitting applicants to demonstrate completion of:

- No less than an additional thirty semester hours of study; or
- (2) An additional twelve months of professional experience in the practice of public accountancy only.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Board of Public Accountancy; Hong Consulting, LLC; Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants; Chantal Mentzer Inc.; Hawaii Association of Public Accountants; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that there is an increasing need for well-qualified certified public accountants in the State and nationwide as business and commerce continue to grow more complicated. However, there is a declining percentage of students



STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1715 Page 2

in accounting courses that pursue certified public accountant licenses. This is in part due to the extensive educational requirements beyond a bachelor's degree for licensure, which require further time and money and can serve as a barrier for many potential candidates for licensure. This measure opens an alternative pathway for a certified public accountant license by authorizing the completion of qualifying professional experience in the practice of accountancy in lieu of post-baccalaureate coursework.

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. 1291, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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

SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: Con SB1291, SD1	mmittee Referral:	Date:	3/251	125
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. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (C)			4942	
2. CHUN, Cory M. (VC)				
3. ILAGAN, Greggor				
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda				
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco				
6. KONG, Sam Satoru				
7. LOWEN, Nicole E.				
8. MARTEN, Lisa				
9. TAM, Adrian K.		-		
10. PIERICK, Elijah				
TOTAL (10)	9			1
The recommendation is: Image: Adopted in the provided of the pro				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				