

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding four new sections to article 10E to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§431:10E- **Property insurance; notice of premium**
increase; policy renewal; notice requirements. (a) Beginning
January 1, , this section shall apply to any insurer
offering property insurance in the State.

(b) If an insurer cancels or refuses to renew a
policyholder's insurance policy, or if, upon renewal, a
policyholder's premium will increase by ten per cent or more,
the insurer shall automatically provide a written notice to the
policyholder disclosing the causes of any policy cancellation,
non-renewal, or premium increase; provided that the notice
required under this subsection shall be provided to the
policyholder no less than calendar days before the
effective date of the renewed policy. The notice shall include
reasonable explanations and the primary factors contributing to



1 any premium increase, non-renewal, or cancellation, which shall
2 include the following categories:

3 (1) Specific risk factors;

4 (2) Claims history;

5 (3) Market conditions;

6 (4) A summary of any changes to policy terms, conditions,
7 or coverage; and

8 (5) A clear and concise breakdown of the premium
9 calculation, which shall identify any administrative
10 costs, loss reserves, reinsurance costs, and claims-
11 related factors specific to the insured property;

12 provided that the notice shall include the extent to which each
13 of these categories contributes to the premium increase.

14 (c) The insurer shall include a statement in all written
15 notices provided pursuant to this section that the policyholder
16 may contact the insurer to request additional information about
17 the policyholder's premium increase. The insurer shall respond
18 to and provide additional information for a policyholder's
19 subsequent requests for premium change transparency no less
20 than calendar days from the receipt of any request.



1 (d) The insurer shall send the written notice to the
2 policyholder in writing and may send either explanations or
3 notices via postal mail or electronic mail, if the policyholder
4 has consented to receive notifications electronically.

5 (e) The insurer shall contemporaneously file
6 electronically with the commissioner a copy of any written
7 notice and supporting documentation provided to a policyholder
8 pursuant to this section. An insurer's failure to send the
9 notice required by this section to the policyholder or file a
10 copy with the commissioner shall be considered a violation of
11 this chapter. A listing of all notices received by the
12 commissioner shall be available to the public.

13 §431:10E- Property insurance; annual filings; review of
14 insurance practices; reports. (a) Beginning January 1, ,
15 all insurers offering property insurance policies in the State
16 shall file a copy of the insurer's rate schedules and
17 underwriting criteria with the commissioner annually.

18 (b) The commissioner shall conduct periodic reviews of
19 insurance rates to ensure compliance with state laws, focusing
20 on rate-setting practices, prevention of price-gouging, and
21 unfair discrimination.



1 (c) In addition to the filing requirements established in
2 subsection (a), an insurer shall file with the commissioner an
3 annual report in a form to be approved by the commissioner that
4 shall detail:

5 (1) The average premium increases for all policyholders,
6 including master property insurance policies for
7 policyholders that are condominium associations,
8 planned community associations, or cooperative housing
9 corporations in this State;

10 (2) The reasons for the average premium increase,
11 including trends in claims or market conditions; and

12 (3) The total number of complaints filed by policyholders.

13 (d) The commissioner shall submit an annual report to the
14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 each regular session that contains a summary of the information
16 received pursuant to this section, including any other findings,
17 recommendations, or proposed legislation.

18 \$431:10E- Property insurance; public reporting; dispute
19 resolution. (a) The commissioner shall establish and
20 administer a public reporting and dispute resolution program
21 that shall include:



(1) A dedicated consumer hotline and online reporting system to handle complaints related to insurance rates and practices, or concerns regarding excessive premiums or inadequate coverage; and

(2) An appeals process for policyholders to file a formal appeal with the commissioner to challenge a premium increase believed to be unjustified; provided that the commissioner shall:

(A) Acknowledge receipt of the policyholder's filed appeal within five business days;

(B) Conduct an investigation and provide a written determination within thirty calendar days; and

(C) If the commissioner determines that the premium increase violates state law, require adjustments or refunds.

(b) An insurer shall not take any retaliatory action against a policyholder that files a complaint or appeal pursuant to this section.

\$431:10E- Property insurance; disaster risk mitigation credits. (a) An insurer offering property insurance in the State shall provide premium discounts or credits to



1 policyholders that implement disaster risk mitigation measures,
2 including the installation of wind-resistant roofing, flood-
3 proofing systems, fire suppression or sprinkler systems, and
4 other fire prevention improvements.

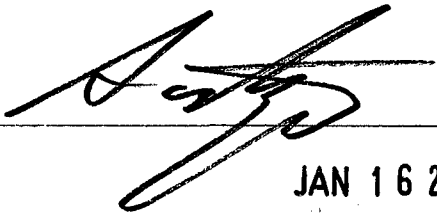
5 (b) Insurers shall notify policyholders of the amount of
6 the discount or credit in writing via postal mail or electronic
7 mail if the policyholder has consented to receive notifications
8 electronically."

9 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 16 2025



H.B. NO. 254

Report Title:

Insurance Division; Insurance Commissioner; Property Insurance; Premium Change Notice; Notice Requirements; Transparency; Review; Reports; Public Reporting and Dispute Resolution Program; Complaint; Appeals; Disaster Risk Mitigation

Description:

Requires insurers to provide advance written notice to policyholders and the Insurance Commissioner, with reasonable explanations and primary factors, of any policy cancellation, non-renewal, or proposed premium increase, if, upon renewal, premiums are scheduled to increase more than ten per cent. Requires insurers that provide property insurance to file rate schedules and underlying criteria with the Insurance Commissioner. Requires the Insurance Commissioner to conduct periodic reviews of insurance rates and submit annual reports to the Legislature. Requires the Insurance Commissioner to establish a Public Reporting and Dispute Resolution Program to handle complaints and appeals regarding premium increases. Requires insurers to provide premium discounts or credits to policyholders that implement disaster risk mitigation measures.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

