

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2569**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2948
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2948 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to clarify the authority of the chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission regarding ministerial duties, including operational expenditures, and the hiring and retention of personnel.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Division of Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, and one individual. Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee finds that the Commission faces exceptional challenges in recruiting and maintaining the specialized staff that is needed to provide expertise in technology, economic policy, and law. This measure will help the Commission to efficiently address issues regarding the hiring and retention of personnel. Your Committee further finds that this measure will help to avoid possible ambiguity regarding the Commission's autonomy and ability to make necessary expenditures in order to carry out its various responsibilities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

SB2948 SD1 SSCR LRB 14-1468.doc



- (1) Clarifying that the review and approval of operational expenditures under the agreed upon threshold will be under the exclusive authority of the chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, and that any expenditures above the threshold may be reviewed and approved by the Director of Finance;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2948, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2948, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

David Y. Ige

DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2948	Committee Referral: CPN, WAM	Date: 2-19-14		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani				✓
ESPERO, Will	✓			
KAHELE, Gilbert	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D.	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N.	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Michelle N. Kelani</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes