

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

750

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 1439
H.D. 2

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. 1439, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EVICTION MEDIATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Pre-Litigation Mediation Pilot Program; and
- (2) Establish an Emergency Rent Relief Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Planning for Community LLC, Papa Ola Lokahi, Family Promise of Hawai'i, Ku'ikahi Medication Center, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, and ten individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that the economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the housing status of many tenants who became unable to afford rent. Your Committee further finds that Act 57, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 57), through the combination of a robust pre-litigation mediation process with

2023-1815 HB1439 HD2 HSCR HMSO



rental relief, effectively stymied the predicted wave of evictions and achieved better outcomes for local families struggling to make ends meet. Because of Act 57's intervention, eighty-five percent of cases mediated settled without litigation and, within the First Circuit, eighty-five percent of settlements resulted in tenants remaining in the dwelling. This measure continues the most effective provisions of Act 57 to stabilize the housing status of tenants and provides funds for an Emergency Rent Relief Program, which will help families who are again struggling to pay rent now that the federal pandemic rental subsidies have ended.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the rules for the Emergency Rent Relief Program shall prohibit a tenant from participating in the Program more than once; 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. 1439, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1439, H.D. 2.

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



MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-second Legislature

HSR 750

Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 1439 HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HSG, CPC, FIN</i>	Date: <i>02-15-23</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> 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. HASHEM, Mark J.	/			
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia	/			
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega				/
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.	/			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	/			
10. TAM, Adrian K.	/			
11. PIERICK, Elijah			/	
TOTAL (11)	9		1	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Juan Cruz</i>				
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