

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 30 2017

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 3

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
First Special Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 3, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

G.M. No. 3            JAMES GRIFFIN,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2022,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by the nominee and finds James Griffin to possess the requisite qualifications to be nominated to the Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination of James Griffin from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Ulupono Initiative; Earthjustice; Hawai'i Energy; Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc.; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Distributed Energy Resources Council of Hawaii; nineteen individuals; and a petition signed by the following: American Electric Company, LLC; AlternateEnergy, Inc.; Sunrun; Inter-Island Solar Supply; Hawaii Energy Connection; E-GEAR, LLC; Honeywell; Vivint Solar; Holu Energy, LLC; The Alliance for Solar Choice; Stem, Inc.; Green Charge; Go Electric Inc.; Geli; and one hundred thirty-eight individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Dr. Griffin's background, experience, and commitment to public service qualify him for appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.



Your Committee notes that Dr. Griffin has extensive experience in the energy sector. Dr. Griffin was formerly an Assistant Specialist and faculty researcher at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, where he worked on several studies that analyzed the technical requirements needed to integrate higher levels of renewable energy into Hawaii's electric systems and managed demonstration projects to test emerging clean energy technologies. More recently, Dr. Griffin served as the Chief of Policy and Research for the Public Utilities Commission from 2012 through 2016. In this role, Dr. Griffin contributed research and economic analyses in support of many of the Commission's key decisions, had oversight responsibility for Commission-led programs, and developed a deep knowledge of the Commission's major regulatory proceedings.

Your Committee further finds that Dr. Griffin recognizes and supports the State's energy policies and goals. Dr. Griffin also acknowledges the broad oversight role of the Public Utilities Commission and the regulatory responsibilities that the Commission must fulfill in support of these policies and goals. Through his extensive involvement in the area of clean energy policy and research, Dr. Griffin has gained an in-depth understanding of the complex technical and economic analyses that are typically submitted to the Public Utilities Commission. This insight will be critical in light of the major dockets currently before the Public Utilities Commission and the ongoing efforts of the Commission to meet the State's energy goals.

Your Committee notes that Dr. Griffin's extensive energy systems knowledge and experience with energy planning, research, and design will be an invaluable complement to the expertise of the other Public Utilities Commissioners and therefore recommends that Dr. Griffin be appointed to the Public Utilities Commission based on his knowledge, background, and dedication to serving in the public's best interest.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.



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

*Rosalyn H. Baker*

ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



