

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3271

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2810  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and  
Affordable Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 2810, H.D. 1,  
S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER RATES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to promote long-term viability  
of agriculture in the State by providing preferential water rates  
for potable water for agricultural activities.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to establish  
preferential rates for potable water used for  
agricultural activities in a public utility's service  
area;
- (2) Requires public utilities, upon application and proof of  
qualification, to provide preferential rates for potable  
water used for agricultural activities; and
- (3) Allows the preferential water rates to be subsidized by  
the water rates charged to other customers of the public  
utility.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the  
Maui County Farm Bureau.

2008-2182 SSCR SMA.doc



Although many agricultural producers in the State are able to access lower agricultural water rates provided by county water systems for agricultural purposes, there are a number of farmers who are forced to depend on expensive residential water rates provided by public utilities. Your Committee finds that affordable water rates for agricultural activities will contribute in creating an agricultural industry in Hawaii that is more sustainable and competitive. Authorizing the Public Utilities Commission to establish preferential rates for potable water used for agricultural activities in a public utility's service area will promote the long-term viability of agriculture in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2810, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing**  
**CPH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2810 HDISDI	AHW/WTL, CPH	3/27/08		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	✓			
IGE, David Y. (VC)	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
TANIGUCHI, BRIAN T.				✓
TRIMBLE, Gordon	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	6			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Will Espero</i>				
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes