



Consumer Federation of America

March 26, 2019

Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Legislature

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection and Health
Hawaii State Legislature

Submitted via: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>

RE: Support for HB 556 SD1, HD1, a bill relating to appliance efficiency standards

Dear Chair Baker and Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committees:

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is writing in support of HB 556 SD1, HD1, appliance efficiency standards legislation. We are pleased your committee is holding a hearing on this bill which will benefit consumers and help protect them from higher utility bills.

By way of background, CFA is an association of more than 250 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education. We have long advocated for cost-effective energy and water efficiency standards at the state and federal levels as they benefit consumers through lower utility bills.

We strongly support HB 556, which would adopt energy and water efficiency standards for 5 consumer products that are estimated to save Hawaiians approximately \$537 million between 2021 and 2035. With Hawaii's highest-in-the-nation electricity prices and high per household water use, HB 556 is a great opportunity to reduce energy and water waste and lower consumer utility bills.

The bill would adopt minimum efficiency standards for computers and computer monitors, faucets, showerheads, spray sprinkler bodies, and high CRI fluorescent lamps using standards already set or under development by the California Energy Commission (CEC). According to a recent analysis by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, this bill could save up to \$38 million on utility bills for Hawaiians in 2025 and reduce water consumption by nearly 1.5 billion gallons. As more and more consumers purchase the efficient products compliant with standards proposed in HB 556, annual savings would grow, reaching nearly \$77 million and 3.2 billion gallons of water annually in 2035.

Aligning Hawaii standards with those in place or under development in California allows Hawaii to take advantage of a significant body of work already completed. The CEC develops

standards through a thorough rulemaking process and currently maintains a database of compliant products that other states are able to use.

Passing HB 556 will cut energy and water waste, save consumers and businesses money and reduce greenhouse gases. Because Hawaii can take advantage of work already completed by other states, the effort to implement such standards in Hawaii can be minimal. CFA urges you to adopt this cost-effective, pro-consumer bill—it's a win-win-win opportunity for Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Hall-Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and "C".

Mel Hall-Crawford
Director of Energy Programs
Consumer Federation of America