



Consumer Federation of America

February 9, 2021

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

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce

RE: Support for HB 116, a bill relating to energy efficiency

Dear Chair Johanson and Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is writing in support of HB 116, appliance efficiency standards legislation. We are pleased that the bill received unanimous support in the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and that your committee is now holding a hearing on HB 116 as it will benefit Hawaiians by helping to protect them from higher utility bills and also by helping to maintain the high level of air quality Hawaiians enjoy.

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 support HB 116 which would adopt energy efficiency standards for air purifiers and portable electric spas. This legislation could save Hawaiians up to \$3.4 million on utility bills in 2025, and annual savings would grow to over \$12 million in 2035, according to a recent analysis by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). Some air purifiers on the market today consume as much as 500 kWh/year—that's the same energy consumption annually as that of a residential refrigerator. An air purifier meeting the proposed standard with an average-per-unit energy savings of 200 kWh saves Hawaiians \$64 annually.

It is also important to note that there would be little or no cost increase to the consumer for the two products covered by the bill; ASAP estimates that there would be no incremental cost increase for air purifiers so consumers start saving right away, and portable electric spas have less than a six month payback period.

With Hawaii's highest in the nation electricity rates, HB 116 is a great opportunity to reduce energy waste, lower consumer utility bills and help reduce greenhouse gases.

CFA urges you to adopt this cost-effective, pro-consumer bill—it's a win-win-win 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