

April 2, 2023



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
10:30 AM
Via Videoconference

RE: **HB1439 SD1** Relating to Eviction Mediation (**Support with Amendments**)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran & Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of HB1439 SD1, which establishes a pre-litigation mediation pilot program that extends the period for a notice of termination of the rental agreement from five business days to ten calendar days, requires landlords to participate in mediation before filing an action for summary possession, and requires landlords to provide specific information in the ten-calendar-day notice to tenants and a mediation center that offers free mediation for residential landlord-tenant disputes, appropriates funds for a pre-litigation mediation pilot program, and creates and appropriates funds for an emergency rent relief program.

As business owners who strive for a triple bottom line and know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass HB1439 SD1 because it **aims to reduce tenant evictions and allows landlords to mitigate their losses and pay their mortgages.**

CSC urges this committee to **amend HB1439 SD1 by capping the total amount of rent relief available to a household at \$8,000 - \$5,000 to cover arrears, plus six-monthly payments of \$500 to cover future rent.**

Hawaii Legislative Council	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu	Russel Rudderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Tina Wildberger Kihei Ice Maui	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu
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