

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Class Title: Engineer Intern (Public Utilities)
Department: Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Division: Consumer Advocacy
Branch: Engineering
Geographic Location: Oahu

II. INTRODUCTION

This internship position is located within the engineering branch of the Division of Consumer Advocacy ("Division" or "Consumer Advocate"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Division is tasked with representing the interest of consumers of regulated utility (i.e., electricity, telecommunications, gas, water, and wastewater) and transportation (i.e., motor and water carrier transportation services) companies that have been certificated by the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("Commission" or "PUC) to serve customers in Hawaii. Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 269-51 and Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 16-601-62, the Consumer Advocate, ex officio, a party to any proceeding before the Commission and must represent, protect, and advance the interests of all consumers, including small businesses, of utility and transportation services.

The Engineering Branch analyzes and makes recommendations on technical matters such as production capacity and efficiency, depreciation allowances, maintenance cost factors, engineering safety standards, plans for capital improvements, purchased power agreements, and quality of service standards.

This position is under the supervision of and receives training from the Engineer (Public Utilities) VI. This Branch section provides the following services including, but not limited to: 1) economic engineering services and analyses relating to the regulation of electrical, gas, telephone, water and transportation operations, functions and services provided by regulated companies; 2) prepares economic engineering exhibits and reports; and 3) serves as a witness for the Consumer Advocate in evidentiary proceedings before federal and state regulatory agencies.

The engineer discipline required for this internship is electrical engineering (EE).

III. AREAS OF LEARNING

A. Engineering Analyses and Coordination for dockets/tariffs 60%

Will perform engineering investigations, analyses, and studies of regulated utility and transportation companies and their operations. These analyses include, but are not limited to: 1) cost/benefit analyses of the operations and maintenance; 2) review of historical operations and maintenance expenses and the development of forecasted operations and maintenance expenses; 3) evaluation of capital investments requirements to adequately provide regulated services; 4) valuation of capital investments for reasonableness; 5) review of service agreements (e.g., power purchase agreements, maintenance agreements); 6) capacity and reliability studies; 7) depreciation analyses; and 8) long-term planning studies.

Prepares statements of positions or written testimony with supporting exhibits and work papers, provides oral testimony, and is subject to cross-examination as a witness representing the ratepayers in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission or other regulatory bodies.

Work with other engineers, research analysts, and attorneys as a member of a team representing the ratepayers.

B. Provides Engineering and Economic Analyses Services 30%

Performs engineering and economic analyses of regulated utility and transportation company activities and prepares engineering reports, exhibits, and memoranda relative to utility or transportation activities.

Maintains current knowledge of general and best practice engineering related matters, as well as regulatory policies and concepts. Maintains current knowledge of relevant Federal, State, County, and other standard setting bodies that promulgate laws, rules, and standards that govern engineering standards.

C. Performs other duties as required by the Consumer Advocate 10%

TO APPLY: Interested students may contact Dean Hazama and send him resumes directly--dhazama@dcca.hawaii.gov