
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO WORK WITH THE
MAJOR UTILITY INDUSTRIES IN THE STATE TO DEVELOP A
MECHANISM TO COORDINATE REPAIRS TO DAMAGED UTILITY POLES.

1 WHEREAS, easy access to utilities, including electricity,
2 cable television, and phone is imperative to daily life; and
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4 WHEREAS, this access has been accommodated through the
5 development of an infrastructure that allows for the delivery of
6 such utilities to many homes and businesses throughout the
7 State; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii utilities, including electricity, phone,
10 and state or city-owned streetlights jointly own approximately
11 fifty-five thousand utility poles, while Hawaiian Electric has
12 sole ownership of approximately fifteen thousand utility poles;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, these utility poles are used to deliver
16 electricity, cable, and phone service to many homes and
17 businesses; and
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19 WHEREAS, when utility poles are knocked down as a result of
20 things such as inclement weather or accidents, utility service
21 to residents and businesses is disrupted; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that it is the
24 Hawaiian Electric Companies' responsibility to replace the
25 utility pole; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Legislature further understands that while
28 electricity is often restored to residents very quickly, it can
29 take as long as five to six months for other services, including
30 cable and phone, to be restored; and
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1 WHEREAS, delay in the restoration of such services can
2 result in significant hardship for residents and businesses in
3 the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2004, legislation was passed to establish a
6 single call center, administered by the Public Utilities
7 Commission, to provide advance warning to excavators of the
8 location of underground utilities; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission established an
11 advisory committee including government, construction industry,
12 and utility representatives to advise the Commission on the
13 implementation of the One Call Center; and
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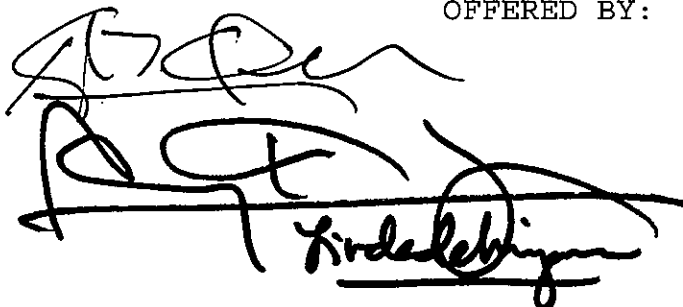
15 WHEREAS, among other things, the One Call Center has been a
16 successful means of coordinating work among utilities in the
17 State and demonstrates the benefits of collaboration between the
18 Public Utilities Commission and the utilities; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2015, that the Public Utilities Commission is
23 requested to work with the major utility industries in the State
24 to develop a mechanism to coordinate repairs to damaged utility
25 poles; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission consider, among
28 other things, the organization of the One Call Center and its
29 advisory board as a potential model; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public Utilities
33 Commission.
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OFFERED BY:


Kirkalebiyev


Calvin H. King
Kulb
Hans J.
Mark Hale

