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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING REPORTS REGARDING STATE AGENCY ACTION TO ENSURE  
ACCESS BY RURAL COMMUNITIES TO CELLULAR AND BROADBAND  
SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, with respect to cellular and broadband access,  
2 many of the State's rural communities are clearly unserved or  
3 underserved; and  
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5           WHEREAS, providing cellular and broadband communication  
6 services will enable residents in rural communities to gain  
7 critically needed access to medical care, higher education,  
8 public safety and emergency services, as well as benefits  
9 resulting from economic opportunity and job growth, among other  
10 things; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the importance of access to advanced  
13 telecommunications services by rural communities is widely and  
14 unquestionably recognized; for example, a 2009 Federal  
15 Communications Commission report stated that broadband service  
16 is "the interstate highway of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for small towns  
17 and rural communities, the vital connection to the broader  
18 nation, and increasingly, the global economy," and congressional  
19 support and commitment from the Obama Administration has been  
20 noted in this regard; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission is clearly charged  
23 with the responsibility of ensuring access by rural areas of the  
24 State to telecommunications services; for example the Commission  
25 is charged with ensuring that:  
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27           (1) Consumers in all communities are provided with access,  
28           at reasonably comparable rates, to all  
29           telecommunications services which are used by a



1 majority of consumers located in metropolitan areas of  
2 the State; and  
3

- 4 (2) All consumers are provided with nondiscriminatory,  
5 reasonable, and equitable access to high quality  
6 telecommunications network facilities and capabilities  
7 that provide subscribers with sufficient network  
8 capacity to access information services that provide a  
9 combination of voice, data, image, and video; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is  
12 charged with, among other things, making recommendations to  
13 establish affordable, accessible broadband services to unserved  
14 and underserved areas of Hawaii and monitor advancements in  
15 communications that will facilitate this goal; and  
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17 WHEREAS, funding and support through federal agencies may  
18 be available to the State to assist the deployment of advanced  
19 telecommunication services, including cellular and broadband  
20 services, to rural communities; for example, the U.S. Department  
21 of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service has made available  
22 funding and technical and program experience to expand broadband  
23 networks that will close the digital divide between rural and  
24 urban communities and deploy the most advanced broadband  
25 capability in rural communities; now, therefore,  
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
29 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Public  
30 Utilities Commission is requested to report on its progress and  
31 deployment plans and in consultation with the Division of  
32 Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
33 Affairs, the Consumer Advocate's efforts to ensure that:  
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- 35 (1) Consumers in all communities are provided with  
36 telecommunications services, including cellular  
37 service, that is comparable to the telecommunications  
38 services used by a majority of consumers located in  
39 metropolitan areas of the State; and  
40  
41 (2) All consumers are provided with nondiscriminatory,  
42 reasonable, and equitable access to high quality



1 telecommunications network facilities and  
2 capabilities, including cellular service, that provide  
3 sufficient network capacity to access information  
4 services that provide a combination of voice, data,  
5 image, and video; and  
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
8 is also requested to report on its efforts and plans to find and  
9 access funding for the foregoing services, including from  
10 federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's  
11 Rural Utilities Service; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Commerce and  
14 Consumer Affairs is requested to report on the Director's  
15 progress and plans to:  
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17 (1) Establish affordable, accessible broadband services to  
18 unserved and underserved areas of Hawaii and monitor  
19 advancements in communications that will facilitate  
20 this goal; and  
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22 (2) Find and access funding for such broadband services,  
23 including from federal agencies such as the U.S.  
24 Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service;  
25 and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
28 and the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are requested  
29 to work collaboratively, where necessary, to achieve the  
30 objectives of this Concurrent Resolution; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
33 and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are  
34 requested, respectively, to submit a report of findings,  
35 recommendations, and actions to the Legislature no later than  
36 twenty days before the commencement of the Regular Session of  
37 2016; and



# H.C.R. NO. 131

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
3 Public Utilities Commission, Director of Commerce and Consumer  
4 Affairs, and the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer  
5 Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.

MAR 13 2015

