

JAN 24 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SALARY OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State of Hawaii
2 public utilities commission has an important role in serving the
3 public by overseeing and regulating utilities to help ensure
4 that utilities provide reliable service at fair and reasonable
5 rates. Commissioners play a key role in regulating utilities
6 and keeping Hawaii on track to reach its goals to completely
7 transfer to clean, renewable energy by 2045. As nonrenewable
8 resources are increasingly depleted, the commissioners' role in
9 overseeing public utilities continues to expand. In order to
10 keep the high-caliber commissioners on the Hawaii public
11 utilities commission and not lose them to the mainland where
12 many states have higher wages for public utilities
13 commissioners, Hawaii commissioners should receive a salary
14 increase.

15 The purpose of this Act is to raise the salaries of the
16 public utilities commissioners to be commensurate with other



1 states and to align the commissioners' salaries with the
2 established pay structure of deputy attorney general positions.

3 SECTION 2. Section 269-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) Effective July 1, 2005, the chairperson of the
6 commission shall be paid a salary [~~set at eighty seven per cent~~
7 ~~of the salary of the director of human resources development,~~]
8 equal to the highest pay tier of a supervising deputy attorney
9 general of the department of the attorney general, and each of
10 the other commissioners shall be paid a salary equal to [~~ninety-~~
11 ~~five per cent of the chairperson's salary.~~] the lowest pay tier
12 of the first deputy attorney general of the department of the
13 attorney general. The commissioners shall be exempt from
14 chapters 76 and 89 but shall be members of the state
15 [~~+~~]employees' [~~+~~] retirement system and shall be eligible to
16 receive the benefits of any state or federal employee benefit
17 program generally applicable to officers and employees of the
18 State, including those under chapter 87A."

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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S.B. NO. 1329

Report Title:

Public Utilities Commission; Commissioners; Salary Increase

Description:

Aligns the salary of the public utilities commission chair with the highest pay tier of a supervising deputy attorney general. Aligns the salary of the other PUC commissioners with the lowest pay tier of the first deputy attorney general.

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