
HOUSE 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

4
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 21st 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

21
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:

- 26
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
30 majority of consumers located in metropolitan areas of
31 the State; and



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

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



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1 sufficient network capacity to access information
2 services that provide a combination of voice, data,
3 image, and video; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
6 is also requested to report on its efforts and plans to find and
7 access funding for the foregoing services, including from
8 federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's
9 Rural Utilities Service; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Commerce and
12 Consumer Affairs is requested to report on the Director's
13 progress and plans to:
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15 (1) Establish affordable, accessible broadband services to
16 unserved and underserved areas of Hawaii and monitor
17 advancements in communications that will facilitate
18 this goal; and
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20 (2) Find and access funding for such broadband services,
21 including from federal agencies such as the U.S.
22 Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service;
23 and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
26 and the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are requested
27 to work collaboratively, where necessary, to achieve the
28 objectives of this resolution; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
31 and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are
32 requested, respectively, to submit a report of findings,
33 recommendations, and actions to the Legislature no later than
34 twenty days before the commencement of the Regular Session of
35 2016; and



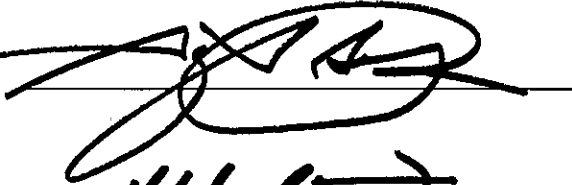
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public
 3 Utilities Commission, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
 4 and the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy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

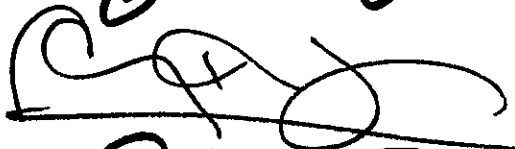
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OFFERED BY:

Linda Delchizame



Abelochima



Cindy Evans

Richard



Matt Spivey

Paul King

John M. [Signature]

JAN 23 2015

