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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO REEVALUATE AND ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED OR DOUBLE UTILITY POLES, LINES, AND EQUIPMENT.

1           WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission regulates all  
2 chartered, franchised, certificated, and registered public  
3 utility companies operating in the State; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission's administrative  
6 rules adopted the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Safety  
7 Code as it pertains to the installation, operation, and  
8 maintenance of overhead and underground electrical supply and  
9 communication lines; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Safety  
12 Code states that "[l]ines and equipment permanently abandoned  
13 shall be removed or maintained in a safe condition"; and  
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15           WHEREAS, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian  
16 Electric) is a utility company in the State that provides  
17 electric services via lines using wooden poles within existing  
18 county and state street rights-of-way to residential communities  
19 and businesses; and  
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21           WHEREAS, Hawaiian Electric owns over 120,000 utility poles  
22 on the island of Oahu; and  
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24           WHEREAS, when a new utility pole is installed adjacent to  
25 an existing utility pole for the purpose of transferring  
26 electric, telephone, cable, or other wires from one pole to  
27 another, the original pole is often left in place, resulting in  
28 what is referred to as double poles; and  
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30           WHEREAS, there are thousands of derelict utility poles,  
31 double poles, and utility lines abandoned across Hawaii  
32 neighborhoods; and



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WHEREAS, the derelict utility and communication lines, abandoned utility poles, and redundant double poles should be removed in a timely manner due to their growing threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the removal of unnecessary and unsightly derelict lines and poles will eliminate a potential public hazard, organize communication and utility pole lines, and favorably influence the surrounding community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Public Utilities Commission is urged to reevaluate and adopt administrative rules relating to the removal of abandoned lines, double poles, and equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to adopt updated provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code to streamline the removal of double poles and other unsafe abandoned equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

OFFERED BY: Josh Sygen

MAR - 8 2023

