
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT
DISABILITIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public utilities
2 commission has a duty and obligation to obtain and maintain
3 access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services
4 for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the public utilities
6 commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain
7 information for persons with print disabilities through use of
8 the universal service fund.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
11 designated and to read as follows:

12 "§269- Universal service program; access for individuals
13 with print disabilities. (a) The public utilities commission
14 shall use funds from the universal service fund established
15 pursuant to section 269-42 to provide free telephonic access to
16 time-sensitive information, including but not limited to state



1 and local government information, public notices, emergency
2 alerts, job opportunities, daily newspapers, and other content,
3 to allow individuals who are blind or visually impaired to
4 access information and services. The telephonic access shall be
5 configured accessible to and usable by persons with print
6 disabilities.

7 (b) The public utilities commission shall adopt rules to
8 implement this section."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 933

Report Title:

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Public Utilities Commission;
Telecommunications Access; Universal Service Program

Description:

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to use Universal Service Fund moneys to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with print disabilities.

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