
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE EQUAL PUBLIC, EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND OPERATIONS OF CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS TO ALL MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
2 regulates cable television in the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, a cable television operator is required by law to
5 designate three or more channels for public, educational, or
6 governmental use, often referred to as "PEG" access channels;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
10 designates nonprofit access organizations to oversee the
11 development, operation, supervision, management, production, or
12 broadcasting of programs for these channels, that are funded in
13 part by fees collected from subscribers by the cable television
14 operator; and

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16 WHEREAS, currently, there are four PEG access organizations
17 in the State: in Hawaii county, Na Leo `O Hawaii; in Kauai
18 county, Ho`ike; in Maui county, Akakū; and on the island of
19 Oahu, 'Ōlelo; and

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21 WHEREAS, although the access organizations' infrastructure
22 costs are significant, the resources provided to these groups
23 vary greatly throughout the State, resulting in underserved
24 areas such as the islands of Lanai and Molokai and Hana, Maui;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, there is a need for additional funding to support
28 the mandatory access of public, educational, and governmental
29 television in underserved areas of the State and provide equal
30 access statewide; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the Senate concurring, that, in regulating cable television operators, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to develop a plan to provide equal public, education, and governmental access facilities, equipment, and operations of cable television systems to all markets throughout the State, pursuant to standards and conditions to be adopted in accordance with section 40G-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to address the cable television public access needs of underserved areas of the State, including Hana, Maui and the islands of Lanai and Molokai, in particular; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including implementation plans and a timeline, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the President and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Na Leo `O Hawaii, Ho`ike, Akakū, and 'Ōlelo, respectively.

OFFERED BY: Mele Carrall

George P. Abramo, Jr.

Ali A. Auliki

Paula Oyama

Ann V. Shiga

James A. ...