

JAN 26 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the deployment and
2 complexity of underground infrastructure in this State has
3 steadily increased over the past several decades. The
4 legislature further finds, and is concerned with, the increasing
5 dependence by the public, and all levels of government, on the
6 safe and reliable provision of services that are delivered by
7 subsurface facilities, including, but not limited to,
8 electricity, water, drainage, sewer, telecommunications, cable
9 television, oil, petroleum products, gas, optical signals,
10 traffic control, and hazardous liquids. A consequence of
11 increased dependence on these utilities and services is an
12 increase in the need for protecting them from disruption, and
13 avoiding the attendant direct and indirect costs, damages, and
14 injuries caused by their disruption.

15 To address the above concerns, the legislature, pursuant to
16 Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, mandated that the public
17 utilities commission establish and begin operations, by or
18 before January 1, 2006, of a one call center to provide advance

1 warning to excavators in this State of the location of
2 subsurface installations in areas of proposed excavation for the
3 purpose of protecting those installations from damage. Act 141,
4 codified as chapter 269E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, included a
5 repeal date of June 30, 2009.

6 Although after two years of operations the one call center
7 is still in a growth stage with respect to the maximum
8 coordination of its efforts, the legislature believes that the
9 one call center has been successful in its role as provider of
10 advance warning to excavators of the location of subsurface
11 installations, and concomitant protection of underground
12 facilities, and continues to benefit the general public and
13 governmental entities.

14 The purpose of this Act is to repeal the June 30, 2009
15 sunset provision in Act 141.

16 SECTION 2. Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as
17 amended by section 51 of Act 22, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, is
18 amended by amending section 7 to read as follows:

19 "SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2004[
20 ~~and shall be repealed on June 30, 2009; provided that sections~~
21 ~~269-30 and 269-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted~~

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1 ~~in the form in which they read on the day before the effective~~
2 ~~date of this Act]."~~

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken.

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

6

7

INTRODUCED BY:



8

BY REQUEST

Report Title:

The One Call Center

Description:

Protects Hawaii's underground infrastructure by making the One Call Center pilot program permanent. Since 2004, the Center has become the central database for utility operators, contractors, and excavators attempting to locate underground gas, electric, telecommunication, cable, water, and sewer lines.

SB 877

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Budget and Finance (PUC)

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER.

PURPOSE: To repeal the current June 30, 2009 sunset date of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, which has since been codified as chapter 269E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

MEANS: Amend section 7 of Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended by section 51 of Act 22, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005.

JUSTIFICATION: Act 141, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, required the Public Utilities Commission to establish a state one call center for Hawaii similar to other centers operating throughout the nation. It is the first of its kind in this State requiring mandatory participation by both excavators (e.g., contractors) and subsurface facility operators (e.g., public utilities). The One Call Center system provides advanced warning to excavators of the location of underground lines before they begin a dig. This mandatory "Call Before You Dig" program provides excavators with a single phone number to call for locating and marking underground lines, including, but not limited to, lines for electric, gas, telecommunications, cable, water, and sewer facilities.

On November 15, 2005, the Commission, in agreement with the recommendation of the One Call Center Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission to assist in the establishment and administration of the One Call Center program, awarded the contract to create and administer the State's One Call Center to One Call Concepts, Inc. (OCC). The Center began operations statewide on January 1, 2006, with the full term of the

OCC contract for operating the call center running from December 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2009, the current sunset date of the law. The Advisory Committee agrees that the program serves a valuable function in providing a single contact point for excavators to notify subsurface utilities of their intent to excavate in any particular area. By repealing the sunset date at this time, it will allow continued organization of the program to fulfill its mission to serve and protect the people of Hawaii.

Impact on the public: This bill will allow for the continued operation of the State's One Call Center beyond the current statutory sunset date of June 30, 2009 by making the law permanent. The One Call Center's continued operation will aid in assuring that utility services provided to the public via underground facilities will not be interrupted by unintentional breaks resulting from excavators lacking knowledge of the location of those facilities in the area of excavation.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This bill will assist the Public Utilities Commission in meeting its mandate to protect businesses and the public from unintentional disruption of utility services provided via underground facilities, and thereby lessening the likelihood and costs of injury and damage to persons and property.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: BUF-901.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.