
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that from smart grid to
2 broadband, Hawaii is facing many new opportunities and
3 challenges from utility technologies and policies that are
4 reshaping our vision of the State's future and redefining the
5 State's economy. Yet in order to successfully take advantage of
6 these opportunities to fundamentally improve Hawaii's network of
7 infrastructure, our regulatory bodies must effectively oversee
8 and guide our utilities on that path.

9 The legislature further finds that to appropriately guide
10 and make informed decisions regarding the development and
11 modernization of Hawaii's infrastructure in the twenty-first
12 century, the public utilities commission must use the best tools
13 and employ procedures and processes which reflect best practices
14 that most effectively help stakeholders navigate the emerging
15 economic, technological, and regulatory transformations that are
16 taking place in Hawaii's utility sector. This includes
17 increasing transparency and public access, streamlining internal



1 and external procedures, and adopting the best regulatory
2 frameworks for fostering growth and development.

3 The purpose of this Act is to increase transparency and
4 efficiency at the public utilities commission by requiring the
5 adoption of best practices in relation to all commission
6 activities, both internal and external, to ensure that the
7 commission is in the best position to guide the State in utility
8 matters.

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

12 "§269- Commission best practices. (a) The public
13 utilities commission shall integrate and implement best
14 practices including but not limited to:

15 (1) The use of innovative regulatory frameworks to solve
16 utility issues and concerns resulting from economic,
17 technological, and policy changes;

18 (2) The making and updating of rules and procedures that
19 streamline the internal and external procedures of the
20 commission, in particular streamlining and shortening
21 the timeframe of procedural actions; and



1 (3) The use of information technology to improve internal
2 workflow, transparency, and public access to filings
3 and data.

4 (b) The commission shall establish a system to gather,
5 assess, and update utility and regulatory practices, and
6 implement appropriate best practices, particularly as set forth
7 in subsection (a).

8 (c) The commission shall submit an annual report to the
9 legislature on the progress made in implementing best practices
10 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
11 session."

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013, to
15 carry out the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of
16 necessary consultants.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the public
18 utilities commission for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



Report Title:

Public Utilities Commission; Best Practices; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to implement best practices in the areas of regulatory frameworks, rules and procedures, and information technology and public access. Appropriates funds to implement best practices. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB2644 HD1)

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