

JAN 20 2012

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 public utilities
2 commissioners who live on neighbor islands are required to spend
3 an inordinate amount of travel expenses and travel time to meet
4 in Honolulu for required administrative proceedings. The public
5 utilities commission has jurisdiction over the regulation of
6 public utilities, motor carriers, water carriers, one call
7 centers, and petroleum industry information reporting. The
8 legislature further finds that fairness calls for neighbor
9 island public utilities commissioners to receive a per diem
10 allowance and the cost of one weekly round trip airfare, payable
11 from the public utilities commission special fund.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the use of moneys in
13 the public utilities commission special fund to pay a public
14 utilities commissioner who resides on an island other than Oahu
15 a per diem allowance equal to that paid to members of the
16 legislature and airfare for one weekly round trip for meetings
17 and hearings on Oahu.



1 SECTION 2. Section 269-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
3 "(a) There is established in the state treasury a public
4 utilities commission special fund to be administered by the
5 public utilities commission. The proceeds of the fund shall be
6 used by the public utilities commission and the division of
7 consumer advocacy of the department of commerce and consumer
8 affairs for all expenses incurred, including payment to a
9 commissioner who resides on an island other than Oahu of per
10 diem allowance equal to that paid to members of the legislature
11 whose legal residence is on an island other than Oahu and
12 airfare for one weekly round trip for meetings and hearings on
13 Oahu, in the administration of chapters 269, 271, 271G, 269E,
14 and 486J; provided that the expenditures of the public utilities
15 commission shall be in accordance with legislative
16 appropriations. On a quarterly basis, an amount not exceeding
17 thirty per cent of the proceeds remaining in the fund after the
18 deduction for central service expenses, pursuant to section
19 36-27, shall be allocated by the public utilities commission to
20 the division of consumer advocacy and deposited in the
21 compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section
22 26-9(o); provided that all moneys allocated by the public



1 utilities commission from the fund to the division of consumer
2 advocacy shall be in accordance with legislative
3 appropriations."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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S.B. NO. 2420

Report Title:

Public Utilities Commission; Travel; Per Diem

Description:

Requires payment to public utilities commissioners who reside on an island other than Oahu of per diem allowance and weekly round trip airfare.

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