
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 in utility technologies and policies that are
4 reshaping our vision of the State's future, and in the process,
5 redefining Hawaii's economy for decades to come. Yet, to
6 successfully take advantage of opportunities to fundamentally
7 improve Hawaii's network of infrastructure, our regulatory
8 bodies must effectively oversee and guide Hawaii's utilities on
9 that path.

10 The legislature further finds that for the public utilities
11 commission to appropriately guide the development and
12 modernization of Hawaii's infrastructure in the twenty-first
13 century, its procedures and processes must reflect best
14 practices that most effectively help stakeholders navigate the
15 emerging economic, technological, and regulatory transformations
16 that are taking place in Hawaii's utility sector. From
17 increasing transparency and public access, to streamlining
18 internal and external procedures, to adopting the best



1 regulatory frameworks for fostering growth and development, it
2 is imperative that the commission use the necessary tools and
3 best practices to effectively and efficiently make informed
4 decisions about Hawaii's future infrastructure.

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

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

13 "§269- Commission best practices. (a) The commission
14 shall integrate and implement utility and regulatory best
15 practices, including in the following areas:

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

19 (2) The making and updating of rules and procedures that
20 streamline the internal and external procedures of the
21 commission, in particular streamlining and shortening
22 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 best practices, and
6 implement appropriate best practices, particularly in areas set
7 forth 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 public
13 utilities commission special fund established pursuant to
14 section 269-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of or
15 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013,
16 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of
17 necessary consultants.

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

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Public Utilities Commission; Best Practices; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the PUC to implement best practices in the areas of regulatory frameworks, rules and procedures, and information technology and public access. Appropriates funds out of the public utilities commission special fund to implement best practices. (SD2)

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