

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public, educational,
2 and governmental (PEG) access channels serve a vital function in
3 the State by enhancing communications capacities for local
4 communities and government. The legislature further finds that
5 the ability of PEG access channels to perform these services
6 depends on the cable franchise holder providing equipment and
7 maintenance that will deliver content on the PEG access channels
8 that is equal in signal quality to that of local broadcast
9 channels.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the director of
11 commerce and consumer affairs, upon granting an application to
12 receive or renew a cable franchise, to order the applicant to
13 provide equipment and maintenance sufficient to ensure that
14 cable subscribers in the franchise area are able to receive PEG
15 signals equivalent in quality to local full-power broadcast
16 signals carried on the cable system.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 440G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§440G- Public, educational, and governmental access
5 channels. Upon granting an application to receive or renew a
6 cable franchise, the director shall order the applicant to
7 provide equipment and maintenance sufficient to ensure that
8 cable subscribers in the franchise area are able to receive
9 public, educational, and governmental access signals equivalent
10 in quality to local full-power broadcast signals carried on the
11 cable system, including without limitation delivery of a high
12 definition signal to subscribers who have the capability of
13 receiving high definition signals and simultaneous delivery of a
14 standard definition signal, closed captioning, stereo, and
15 multiple audio programming. If the director extends the time
16 when an existing franchise would otherwise expire, the director
17 shall require the franchise holder to satisfy these conditions
18 prior to granting the extension."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2333

Report Title:

Cable Television Systems; Public, Educational, and Governmental Access Channels; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Description:

Requires the director of commerce and consumer affairs to order cable franchise applicants to provide equipment and maintenance sufficient to ensure that cable subscribers in the franchise area are able to receive public, educational, and governmental access channels equivalent in quality to local full-power broadcast signals carried on the cable system.

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