
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 269-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), no public
4 utility shall sell, lease, assign, mortgage, or otherwise
5 dispose of or encumber the whole or any part of its road, line,
6 plant, system, or other property necessary or useful in the
7 performance of its duties to the public, or any franchise or
8 permit, or any right thereunder, nor by any means, directly or
9 indirectly, merge or consolidate with any other public utility
10 without first having secured from the public utilities
11 commission an order authorizing it so to do. For applications
12 for a proposed merger or consolidation with another public
13 utility, the public utilities commission shall not issue an
14 order authorizing the merger or consolidation pursuant to this
15 subsection without first having afforded consumers or patrons an
16 opportunity to provide input on the application. The consumer
17 advocate shall be a party to all dockets involved in the



1 proposed merger or consolidation. Every such sale, lease,
2 assignment, mortgage, disposition, encumbrance, merger, or
3 consolidation, made other than in accordance with the order of
4 the commission shall be void."

5 SECTION 2. (a) The auditor shall conduct a study that
6 compares the salaries of employees at the public utilities
7 commission with employees of comparable positions in the private
8 sector.

9 (b) When conducting the study, the auditor shall examine
10 whether the salaries of employees at the public utilities
11 commission are competitive enough with the private sector to
12 promote employee retention.

13 (c) The auditor shall submit the study, including its
14 findings and recommendations, to the legislature no later than
15 November 30, 2015.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the
19 auditor to conduct a study that compares the salaries of
20 employees at the public utilities commission with the salaries



1 of employees of comparable positions in the private sector to
2 determine whether commission employee salaries are competitive.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the auditor for
4 the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2115.



Report Title:

Public Utilities; Government Transparency; Salaries

Description:

Requires public input on a proposed merger or consolidation of public utilities. Requires the auditor to conduct a study that compares the salaries of employees at the Public Utilities Commission with employees of comparable positions in the private sector. (HB1501 HD1)

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