
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING PUBLIC UTILITIES TO CHARGE LOWER
UTILITY RATES TO LOWER-INCOME CONSUMERS.

1 WHEREAS, lower-income individuals may be eligible to
2 receive public assistance in areas such as medical care, food,
3 and rental housing; and
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5 WHEREAS, there does not appear to be any state programs for
6 lower-income individuals to receive public assistance for public
7 utility services such as electricity and gas; and
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9 WHEREAS, utility bills can amount to a significant monthly
10 expense for consumers; and
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12 WHEREAS, public assistance for utility services may assist
13 in breaking the cycle of poverty for many lower-income
14 consumers; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2016, that the Public Utilities Commission is
19 requested to study the feasibility of requiring public utilities
20 to charge lower utility rates to lower-income consumers; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
23 is requested to:
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- 25 (1) Consider the possibility of tying the lower utility
26 rates to income guidelines used in the Med-QUEST
27 program or any other government program that assists
28 lower-income individuals;
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1 (2) Capping any lower utility rate to twenty per cent of
2 the full price paid by a regular consumer per kilowatt
3 hour; and
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5 (3) Requiring the lower utility rates to apply only to
6 those public utilities that are within the
7 jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
10 is requested to submit its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
13 of 2018; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public
17 Utilities Commission.
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OFFERED BY: Felix P. ...

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MAR 10 2016

