
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND RECIPIENTS IN
RURAL AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, the federal government established the Universal
2 Service Fund (USF) to promote universal access to
3 telecommunications services in the United States through a
4 system of telecommunications subsidies and fees; and
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6 WHEREAS, the federal government collects a Universal
7 Service fee from every telephone and cellphone bill to be placed
8 in the USF to fund rural telecommunications, including providing
9 broadband internet; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State created a special fund akin to the
12 Universal Service Fund under section 269-42, Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes, which was never funded by the Public Utilities
14 Commission; and
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16 WHEREAS, although the United States Federal Communications
17 Commission (FCC) has laudable goals, the Commission may be
18 unable to prevent the mishandling of certain funds; and
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20 WHEREAS, the FCC granted \$500,000,000 in USF moneys to
21 Sandwich Isles Communications Inc., with the intent to provide
22 fibre and DSL high speed broadband internet service to Hawaiian
23 Home Lands, but despite such funding, a sizeable portion of
24 homes under the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on the Island
25 of Hawaii remain without internet service, and huge portions of
26 rural Hawaii remain without internet and other
27 telecommunications services; and



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1 WHEREAS, the President of Waimana Enterprises Inc., which
 2 is the parent company of Sandwich Isles Communications Inc., was
 3 later indicted for the use of \$4,000,000 in company funds for
 4 personal use; and

5
 6 WHEREAS, the FCC made grants to Sandwich Isles
 7 Communications Inc. despite Sandwich Isles Communications Inc.
 8 not being certified by the Public Utilities Commission as a USF
 9 eligible telecommunications carrier; and

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 11 WHEREAS, by having its own USF funding, Hawaii will be able
 12 to allow for cooperatives and other smaller enterprise
 13 telecommunications firms that target rural Hawaii, and enable
 14 increased access to high-speed telecommunications for all of
 15 Hawaii; now, therefore,

16
 17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 18 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 19 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the United States Federal
 20 Communications Commission is requested to fund the USF to
 21 provide funding for and, if necessary, audit USF recipients in
 22 rural areas; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the
 26 United States Federal Communications Commission and members of
 27 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

A collection of handwritten signatures in black ink. The signatures are arranged in several rows. Some are underlined. The text 'OFFERED BY:' is printed above the signatures. The signatures include names such as 'Celine K. Ay', 'Tom Bus', 'Jon Wood', and 'John W. [unclear]'. There are also some illegible signatures and initials.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a surname, all underlined.

MAR 10 2017

