
HOUSE 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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29 WHEREAS, the President of Waimana Enterprises Inc., which
30 is the parent company of Sandwich Isles Communications Inc., was
31 later indicted for the use of \$4,000,000 in company funds for
32 personal use; and



1 WHEREAS, the FCC made grants to Sandwich Isles
 2 Communications Inc. despite Sandwich Isles Communications Inc.
 3 not being certified by the Public Utilities Commission as a USF
 4 eligible telecommunications carrier; and

5
 6 WHEREAS, by having its own USF funding, Hawaii will be able
 7 to allow for cooperatives and other smaller enterprise
 8 telecommunications firms that target rural Hawaii, and enable
 9 increased access to high-speed telecommunications for all of
 10 Hawaii; now, therefore,

11
 12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 14 of 2017, that the United States Federal Communications
 15 Commission is requested to fund the USF to provide funding for
 16 and, if necessary, audit USF recipients in rural areas; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the United States
 20 Federal Communications Commission and members of Hawaii's
 21 Congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names of representatives]

Calvin H. King Gregory Talayan Chen Lull
Tom B. Ben Wood
James M. James W.



H.R. NO. 96

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