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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public utilities  
2 commission's primary purpose is to provide effective, proactive,  
3 and informed oversight of all regulated companies to ensure  
4 these companies efficiently and safely provide their customers  
5 with adequate and reliable services at just and reasonable  
6 rates, while providing regulated companies with a fair  
7 opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return. However, the  
8 public utilities commission has several long and short term  
9 goals that reflect the commission's increased work complexity  
10 and program responsibilities, which go beyond the commission's  
11 traditional regulatory role, including in the area of energy  
12 regulation. Furthermore, with the advent of new and emerging  
13 technology, the market, and other forces, the regulatory  
14 landscape throughout the country is rapidly changing. However,  
15 the commission's current structure and operations have prevented  
16 it from quickly adapting to these changes.

17           The legislature further finds that due to the commission's  
18 increasing responsibilities and the evolution of the regulatory



1 landscape, it is essential that the structure and operations of  
2 the public utilities commission be updated to enable the  
3 commission to operate more efficiently and effectively,  
4 consistent with best practices. For example, updating the  
5 operations of the commission by adopting best practices ensures  
6 that the commission functions in a more inclusive and  
7 collaborative manner. Updating the structure of the commission  
8 will also be beneficial. Increasing the number of commissioners  
9 from three to five promotes diversity and is in line with the  
10 number of commissioners in many other jurisdictions.  
11 Furthermore, requiring the commission to be composed of women  
12 and men, at least one member from a neighbor island, and members  
13 from fields other than just the legal profession will enable the  
14 commission to consider a wider variety of backgrounds,  
15 perspectives, and expertise in its deliberations to better serve  
16 Hawaii's geographic and demographic diversity. The legislature  
17 notes that, in contrast to administrative agencies, commissions  
18 throughout the country are impaneled to provide for collective  
19 deliberation, as well as diversified perspective across  
20 geopolitical, demographic, professional, and other criteria.  
21 The legislature also notes that a diverse commission and staff



1 can provide a stronger, more robust foundation for decision-  
2 making. A commission made up of individuals with diverse  
3 educational and geographic backgrounds and diverse  
4 representation of genders will have a broader range of  
5 knowledge, skills, and abilities than a more homogeneous  
6 commission. Commissioners from diverse backgrounds will provide  
7 greater access to a variety of relevant information, opinions,  
8 expertise, and perspectives, which will enhance deliberations  
9 and decision-making.

10 The legislature additionally finds that the public  
11 utilities commission and its commissioners must fill three  
12 equally essential and nonexclusive roles. In their quasi-  
13 administrative capacity, commissioners interpret policy and  
14 apply technical expertise to the routines of rulemaking,  
15 implementation, and enforcement. In their quasi-legislative  
16 capacity, commissioners craft policy and inform and support  
17 policymaking by other bodies. In their quasi-judicial capacity,  
18 commissioners must make findings and rulings in the context of  
19 particular cases, in accordance with established law and legal  
20 procedures. Commissioners serving on the public utilities  
21 commission therefore fill a unique role, and as such, have a



1 responsibility to regulate in the public interest with the  
2 highest ethical standards. The legislature notes that this  
3 adherence to high ethical standards necessarily extends to  
4 commission staff, but in particular, the senior staff members of  
5 the commission, including its chief counsel, executive officer,  
6 chief of policy and research, and other staff who must engage in  
7 discussions with outside parties.

8       The legislature encourages the commission to engage in  
9 appropriate conversations with the consumer advocate and the  
10 State's regulated industries, even when there is no current case  
11 involved, which will enable the commission to gain a better  
12 understanding of the regulated industries. The legislature also  
13 encourages the commission to take steps toward a more  
14 collaborative working environment, such as more face to face  
15 meetings and by ensuring that research and analysis of cases and  
16 proposals of settlements are circulated amongst all  
17 commissioners to aid in the commissioners' deliberations of an  
18 issue.

19       In keeping with the idea of a more collaborative  
20 commission, the legislature also finds that advancements in  
21 technology have enabled people to participate and work remotely,



1 without having to be physically present in the same location as  
2 their colleagues. Permitting the use of teleconference or  
3 videoconference technology for public hearings and briefings  
4 before the commission, or meetings with other commissioners and  
5 staff, will enable commissioners to participate in public  
6 hearings and commissioner or staff meetings in a convenient  
7 manner and be fully engaged.

8       The legislature further finds that the office of the  
9 auditor last conducted a management audit on the public  
10 utilities commission in 2004. At that time, the auditor's  
11 report identified core deficiencies that resulted from a lack of  
12 vision and plans. As it has been thirteen years since the last  
13 management audit, the legislature concludes that another audit  
14 is appropriate. This will ensure that any previously identified  
15 issues have been addressed and will also aid in the transition  
16 to a more efficient and effective commission.

17       The purpose of this Act is to update the structure and  
18 operation of the commission to increase efficiency and  
19 effectiveness by:

20       (1) Establishing guiding principles of the commission;



- 1           (2)   Requiring the commission to establish a docket review  
2                   and decision-making process that encourages  
3                   collaboration;
- 4           (3)   Allowing a commissioner to attend a public hearing,  
5                   meeting, or work with staff by teleconference or  
6                   videoconference in specific situations;
- 7           (4)   Requiring the executive officer, chief counsel, chief  
8                   of policy and research, and any individual employed as  
9                   or in the role of a hearings officer of the public  
10                  utilities commission to annually file a disclosure of  
11                  financial interests with the state ethics commission  
12                  and requiring these disclosures to be public;
- 13          (5)   Increasing the number of members on the commission,  
14                  specifying the composition of commission members, and  
15                  ensuring that members who are residents of a county  
16                  other than the city and county of Honolulu receive per  
17                  diem compensation and travel expenses;
- 18          (6)   Requiring new commissioners to attend pertinent  
19                  educational or training seminars within the first year  
20                  of the commissioner's appointment and permitting



- 1           commissioners and key staff to take advantage of
- 2           relevant training opportunities;
- 3       (7)   Clarifying the ability of the commissioners to appoint
- 4           and employ staff;
- 5       (8)   Clarifying the roles of the executive officer and
- 6           chief counsel to the commission;
- 7       (9)   Requiring the commissioners to work with the
- 8           departments of commerce and consumer affairs and human
- 9           resources development to develop clearly defined
- 10          duties and responsibilities for public utilities
- 11          commission staff and report the staff duties to the
- 12          legislature; and
- 13       (10)   Requiring a management audit to aid in the
- 14          commission's transition to a better functioning
- 15          entity.

16           SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 17 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately  
 18 designated and to read as follows:

19           "§269-    Guiding principles of the public utilities  
 20 commission. The guiding principles of the public utilities  
 21 commission shall be to:



- 1        (1) Ensure reliability and delivery of all essential  
2            services provided by regulated entities at all times;
- 3        (2) Provide oversight of resource planning efforts to  
4            ensure adequacy and resiliency to ensure essential  
5            services are available when needed;
- 6        (3) Strive for affordability for consumers while allowing  
7            regulated entities an opportunity to maintain  
8            reasonable earnings;
- 9        (4) Align private interest with public interest through  
10           the proactive, aggressive pursuit of factual  
11           information and technical competency to result in fair  
12           and timely decisions and orders in pursuit of the  
13           public interest;
- 14        (5) Regulate in the public interest; and
- 15        (6) Encourage and facilitate competition for the benefit  
16           of consumers.

17        §269- Commission; docket review; decision-making;  
18 process. (a) The chairperson shall implement a docket review  
19 and decision-making process that engages all commissioners in a  
20 collegial, face-to-face manner, where commissioners shall have  
21 the opportunity to review, discuss, and offer input to any order





1 or decision and order requiring a consensus of commissioners.  
2 Commissioners shall work collaboratively to reach consensus on  
3 pending matters in a timely fashion, utilizing, at a minimum,  
4 weekly meetings when necessary.

5 (b) To empower all commissioners to fully participate in  
6 the work of the commission, any commissioner may call for a  
7 meeting with the other commissioners for a deliberative  
8 discussion on any docket or topic before the commission or  
9 likely to come before the commission. Within twenty-four hours  
10 of the request, the executive officer shall calendar such a  
11 meeting. No commissioner shall refuse such a meeting request  
12 without reasonable justification, such as illness.

13 (c) A commissioner who discusses relevant commission-  
14 related information at a meeting with an outside party shall  
15 inform the other commissioners of the meeting.

16 (d) Once the commission is composed of five commissioners  
17 who have been appointed and confirmed by the senate, the  
18 commission may form panels of three commissioners to handle  
19 smaller dockets.

20 (e) Commissioners shall be guided by the public interest  
21 principle of regulation.



1           §269-     Hearing attendance by teleconference or video  
2 conference. (a) A commissioner may attend a public hearing of  
3 the public utilities commission, or a meeting scheduled by other  
4 commissioners, by teleconference or videoconference to allow a  
5 commissioner residing on an island other than Oahu to attend a  
6 public hearing of the commission, or a meeting scheduled by  
7 other commissioners, held on Oahu and a commissioner residing on  
8 the island of Oahu to attend a public hearing of the commission,  
9 or a meeting scheduled by other commissioners, held on an island  
10 other than Oahu by teleconference or videoconference; provided  
11 that commissioner participation by teleconference or  
12 videoconference shall not be permitted at contested case or  
13 evidentiary hearings.

14           (b) Each commissioner participating in a public hearing by  
15 teleconference or videoconference shall be considered present at  
16 the meeting for purposes of determining quorum and participating  
17 in all proceedings.

18           (c) A public hearing held by teleconference or  
19 videoconference:

20           (1) Need not have a quorum present at any one location;  
21           and



1        (2) Is subject to the notice requirements under section  
2                    269-12.

3        (d) The notice of each teleconference or videoconference  
4 public hearing shall specify all physical locations from which  
5 the commissioners will participate.

6        (e) Each commissioner may work with staff via  
7 teleconference or videoconference on commission-related  
8 matters."

9        SECTION 3. Section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

11        "(c) The following persons shall file annually with the  
12 state ethics commission a disclosure of financial interests:

13        (1) The governor, the lieutenant governor, the members of  
14 the legislature, and delegates to the constitutional  
15 convention; provided that delegates to the  
16 constitutional convention shall only be required to  
17 file initial disclosures;

18        (2) The directors and their deputies, the division chiefs,  
19 the executive directors and the executive secretaries  
20 and their deputies, the purchasing agents and the  
21 fiscal officers, regardless of the titles by which the



- 1           foregoing persons are designated, of every state  
2           agency and department;
- 3           (3) The permanent employees of the legislature and its  
4           service agencies, other than persons employed in  
5           clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- 6           (4) The administrative director of the State, and the  
7           assistants in the office of the governor and the  
8           lieutenant governor, other than persons employed in  
9           clerical, secretarial, or similar positions;
- 10          (5) The hearings officers of every state agency and  
11          department;
- 12          (6) The president, the vice presidents, assistant vice  
13          presidents, the chancellors, and the provosts of the  
14          University of Hawaii and its community colleges;
- 15          (7) The superintendent, the deputy superintendent, the  
16          assistant superintendents, the complex area  
17          superintendents, the state librarian, and the deputy  
18          state librarian of the department of education;
- 19          (8) The administrative director and the deputy director of  
20          the courts;



- 1 (9) The members of every state board or commission whose  
2 original terms of office are for periods exceeding one  
3 year and whose functions are not solely advisory;
- 4 (10) Candidates for state elective offices, including  
5 candidates for election to the constitutional  
6 convention, provided that candidates shall only be  
7 required to file initial disclosures;
- 8 (11) The administrator and assistant administrator of the  
9 office of Hawaiian affairs; [and]
- 10 (12) The Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief  
11 operating officer[-]; and
- 12 (13) The individuals employed as or in the role of  
13 executive officer, chief counsel, chief of policy and  
14 research, or hearing officers of the public utilities  
15 commission.
- 16 (d) The financial disclosure statements of the following  
17 persons shall be public records and available for inspection and  
18 duplication:
- 19 (1) The governor, the lieutenant governor, the members of  
20 the legislature, candidates for and delegates to the  
21 constitutional convention, the trustees of the office



- 1 of Hawaiian affairs, and candidates for state elective  
2 offices;
- 3 (2) The directors of the state departments and their  
4 deputies, regardless of the titles by which the  
5 foregoing persons are designated; provided that with  
6 respect to the department of the attorney general, the  
7 foregoing shall apply only to the attorney general and  
8 the first deputy attorney general;
- 9 (3) The administrative director of the State;
- 10 (4) The president, the vice presidents, the assistant vice  
11 presidents, the chancellors, members of the board of  
12 regents, and the provosts of the University of Hawaii;
- 13 (5) The members of the board of education and the  
14 superintendent, the deputy superintendent, the state  
15 librarian, and the deputy state librarian of the  
16 department of education;
- 17 (6) The administrative director and the deputy director of  
18 the courts;
- 19 (7) The administrator and the assistant administrator of  
20 the office of Hawaiian affairs; [and]



- 1           (8) The members of the following state boards,  
2           commissions, and agencies:
  - 3           (A) The board of directors of the agribusiness  
4           development corporation established under section  
5           163D-3;
  - 6           (B) The board of agriculture established under  
7           section 26-16;
  - 8           (C) The state ethics commission established under  
9           section 84-21;
  - 10          (D) The Hawaii community development authority  
11          established under section 206E-3;
  - 12          (E) The Hawaiian homes commission established under  
13          the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as  
14          amended, and section 26-17;
  - 15          (F) The board of directors of the Hawaii housing  
16          finance and development corporation established  
17          under section 201H-3;
  - 18          (G) The board of land and natural resources  
19          established under section 171-4;
  - 20          (H) The state land use commission established under  
21          section 205-1;



- 1 (I) The legacy land conservation commission
- 2 established under section 173A-2.4;
- 3 (J) The natural area reserves system commission
- 4 established under section 195-6;
- 5 (K) The board of directors of the natural energy
- 6 laboratory of Hawaii authority established under
- 7 section 227D-2;
- 8 (L) The board of directors of the Hawaii public
- 9 housing authority established under section
- 10 356D-3;
- 11 (M) The public utilities commission established under
- 12 section 269-2; and
- 13 (N) The commission on water resource management
- 14 established under section 174C-7[-]; and
- 15 (9) The executive officer, chief counsel, chief of policy
- 16 and research, and any individual employed as or in the
- 17 role of a hearings officer of the public utilities
- 18 commission."

19 SECTION 4. Section 269-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 20 amended as follows:

21 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:





1           "(a) There shall be a public utilities commission of  
2   ~~[three]~~ five members, to be called commissioners, and who shall  
3   be appointed in the manner prescribed in section 26-34, except  
4   as otherwise provided in this section. All members shall be  
5   appointed for terms of six years each, except that the terms of  
6   the members first appointed shall be for two, four, and six  
7   years, respectively, as designated by the governor at the time  
8   of appointment. A member who is a resident of a county other  
9   than the city and county of Honolulu shall receive per diem  
10   compensation for expenses, incurred on the day or days on which  
11   actual service is rendered at an allowance equal to the maximum  
12   federal employee rate for Hawaii as established by the United  
13   States Department of Defense on the date that the member incurs  
14   the expense. The governor shall designate a member to be  
15   chairperson of the commission. Each member shall hold office  
16   until the member's successor is appointed and ~~[qualified.]~~  
17   confirmed by the senate; provided that a vacancy occurring  
18   during a commissioner's term shall be filled for the unexpired  
19   term thereof, subject to article V, section 6, of the  
20   Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Section 26-34 shall not  
21   apply insofar as it relates to the number of terms and



1 consecutive number of years a member can serve on the  
2 commission; provided that no member shall serve more than twelve  
3 consecutive years.

4 In appointing commissioners, the governor shall select  
5 persons who have had experience in accounting, business,  
6 engineering, government, finance, law, economics, or other  
7 similar fields[-]; provided that the commission shall:

- 8 (1) Be composed of members who represent various  
9 disciplines and experiences and whose skills reflect a  
10 diversity of professional knowledge and expertise;  
11 (2) Include a diverse representation of genders;  
12 (3) Include at least one member who is a resident of a  
13 county other than the city and county of Honolulu; and  
14 (4) Not include more than two commissioners who have a  
15 solely legal background.

16 The commissioners shall devote full time to their duties as  
17 members of the commission and no commissioner shall hold any  
18 other public office or other employment during the  
19 commissioner's term of office. No person owning any stock or  
20 bonds of any public utility corporation, or having any interest



1 in, or deriving any remuneration from, any public utility shall  
2 be appointed a commissioner.

3 Newly appointed commissioners shall attend at least one  
4 pertinent educational or training seminar offered by the  
5 National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners within  
6 the first year of the commissioner's appointment. Commissioners  
7 may attend additional education and training seminars offered by  
8 organizations such as the National Association of Regulatory  
9 Utility Commissioners, educational institutions, or other  
10 organizations that involve public utilities during the remainder  
11 of the commissioners' terms of office to further the  
12 commissioners' understanding of changes in the regulatory  
13 environment or enhance the commissioners' ability to discharge  
14 their duties. The public utilities commission shall make  
15 training opportunities available to key staff to further the  
16 staff's abilities to assist in the commission's regulatory  
17 functions."

18 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

19 "(e) Notwithstanding section 26-35(a)(5) to the contrary,  
20 the commission's operational expenditures, such as the purchase  
21 of supplies, equipment, furniture, dues and subscriptions,



1 travel, consultant services, and staff training, shall be  
2 determined by the chairperson and may be delegated to the  
3 executive officer appointed and employed pursuant to section  
4 269-3; provided that such expenditures shall be subject to all  
5 applicable procurement laws and procedures. In addition to the  
6 per diem permitted under subsection 269-2(a), the commission's  
7 budget shall provide for travel expenses equal to at least one  
8 round trip per week for any commissioner who is a resident of a  
9 county other than the city and county of Honolulu; provided that  
10 the chairperson of the commission shall not have the authority  
11 to withhold basic travel requirements from any commissioner who  
12 is not a resident of the city and county of Honolulu."

13 SECTION 5. Section 269-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§269-3 Employment of assistants.** (a) The chairperson of  
16 the public utilities commission may appoint and employ  
17 professional staff and other assistants for the public utilities  
18 commission as the chairperson finds necessary for the  
19 performance of the commission's functions and define their  
20 powers and duties. Notwithstanding section 26-35(a)(4) to the  
21 contrary and subject to applicable personnel laws, the



1 employment, appointment, applicable salary schedules, promotion,  
2 transfer, demotion, discharge, and job descriptions of all  
3 officers and employees of or under the jurisdiction of the  
4 commission shall be determined by the [~~chairperson~~]  
5 commissioners and may be delegated by the chairperson to the  
6 executive officer appointed and employed pursuant to subsection  
7 [~~(b)~~] (c); provided that determinations concerning personnel  
8 matters made by the [~~chairperson~~] commissioners or the executive  
9 officer, as delegated by the chairperson, may be reviewed by the  
10 director of commerce and consumer affairs for completeness and  
11 for compliance and conformance with applicable administrative  
12 processes and procedures of the department of commerce and  
13 consumer affairs. The chairperson may appoint and, at pleasure,  
14 dismiss a chief administrator and attorneys as may be necessary,  
15 and who shall be exempt from chapter 76. The chief counsel for  
16 the commission shall report to the commissioners as a whole and  
17 shall not report to the executive officer. The chairperson may  
18 also appoint other staff, including a fiscal officer and a  
19 personnel officer, with or without regard to chapter 76.

20 (b) Each commissioner may request and shall be provided,  
21 upon request, with the services of a staff attorney and a



1 researcher to assist the requesting commissioner in drafting,  
2 preparing revisions, or suggesting approaches to pending  
3 decisions and orders. Attorney/client privilege shall exist  
4 between the requesting commissioner and the staff attorney until  
5 and if the work product is shared with other commissioners. No  
6 commissioner shall request staff assistance on non-commission-  
7 related work. Staff attorneys and researchers provided pursuant  
8 to this section may be selected from the commission's current  
9 staff allotment. The chairperson shall not refuse to provide a  
10 commissioner with the requested services of a staff attorney or  
11 researcher pursuant to this section.

12 (c) Each commissioner, other than the chairperson, may  
13 appoint and employ a clerical or support staff person to assist  
14 with that commissioner's duties. Unless specifically appointed  
15 to serve a single commissioner, staff appointed pursuant to this  
16 section shall function independently and serve all commissioners  
17 as needed, and shall not be required to serve a single  
18 commissioner.

19 (d) The chief counsel shall devote full time to the chief  
20 counsel's duties for the commission and no person serving as  
21 chief counsel shall hold any other public office or other



1 employment while employed with the commission. No person owning  
2 any stock or bonds of any public utility corporation, or having  
3 any interest in or deriving any remuneration from, any public  
4 utility shall serve as chief counsel to the commission.

5 [~~(b)~~] (e) The chairperson of the commission shall appoint,  
6 employ, and dismiss, at pleasure, an executive officer who shall  
7 be responsible for managing the operations of the commission.  
8 The responsibilities of the executive officer shall include  
9 management and recruitment of personnel, budget planning and  
10 implementation, strategic planning and implementation,  
11 procurement and contract administration, and implementation of  
12 administrative programs and projects. The executive officer  
13 shall not be involved in the development of policy or in any  
14 decision making for the commission. The executive officer shall  
15 be exempt from chapter 76.

16 [~~(e)~~] (f) Notwithstanding section 91-13, the commission  
17 may consult with its assistants appointed under authority of  
18 this section in any contested case or agency hearing concerning  
19 any issue of facts. Neither the commission nor any of its  
20 assistants shall in such proceeding consult with any other  
21 person or party except upon notice and an opportunity for all



1 parties to participate, save to the extent required for the  
2 disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law."

3 SECTION 6. (a) The chairperson of the public utilities  
4 commission, in conjunction with the other members of the  
5 commission, shall work with the departments of commerce and  
6 consumer affairs and human resources development to develop  
7 clearly defined duties and responsibilities for public utilities  
8 commission staff.

9 (b) The commission shall submit a report to the  
10 legislature, detailing the duties and responsibilities of public  
11 utilities commission staff described in subsection (a), no later  
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
13 of 2018.

14 SECTION 7. (a) The state auditor shall conduct a  
15 management audit to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of  
16 the public utilities commission and aid in the commission's  
17 transition to a better functioning entity. The management audit  
18 shall include but not be limited to:

19 (1) Appropriateness and applicability of current utility  
20 legislation;





- 1           (2) Adequacy of coverage of current public utilities  
2           commission policies, rules, and procedures, including  
3           the commission's current strategic plan;
- 4           (3) Management of the public utilities commission in terms  
5           of providing technical and analytical staff support in  
6           case management and enforcement of the public  
7           utilities commission's rules; and
- 8           (4) The effectiveness of the public utilities commission  
9           in dealing with telecommunications, energy, and other  
10          utility issues.
- 11          (b) The auditor shall report to the legislature with its  
12          findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
13          legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
14          the regular session of 2018.

15          SECTION 8. Beginning on January 17, 2018, the governor  
16          shall nominate the two additional commissioners, as required  
17          pursuant to section 4 of this Act, to the public utilities  
18          commission. One of the new commissioners shall serve an initial  
19          term of four years, and the other new commissioner shall serve  
20          an initial term of six years, to provide for the expiration of  
21          terms on a staggered basis. By July 1, 2018, the public



1 utilities commission shall comprise five commissioners who  
2 reflect the requisite diversity of background, experience,  
3 gender, and residency, as required by section 4 of this Act.

4 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
7 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on  
8 January 1, 2018.

9



**Report Title:**

Public Utilities Commission; Commissioners; Structure;  
Organization; Per Diem; Teleconference; Videoconference;  
Financial Disclosure; Audit

**Description:**

Makes various updates to the structure and operations of the public utilities commission to increase efficiency and effectiveness, including: establishing guiding principles; establishing docket review and decision-making processes; permitting teleconference and videoconference abilities; specifying senior staff members who must file public financial disclosures; beginning 01/01/18, increasing the number of commissioners to five; updating the composition of the commission; specifying training requirements; clarifying commissioners' ability to appoint and employ staff; clarifying the roles of the executive officer and chief counsel; permitting neighbor island members to receive per diem compensation and compensation for travel expenses; requiring the commission to report to the legislature regarding certain staff duties; and requiring a management audit of the commission. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

