

JAN 17 2018

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. Oversight by
8 the commission includes dockets and other proceedings initiated
9 by regulated companies related to integrated resource planning
10 and other proposed projects undertaken by the regulated
11 companies. These proceedings impact the development of
12 utilities infrastructure throughout the State, especially in the
13 growing field of renewable energy.

14 The legislature further finds that the commission's
15 existing procedures relating to dockets and other proceedings
16 lack transparency and sufficient oversight. Regulated companies
17 have reported long delays in decision-making proceedings and a



1 lack of responsiveness from the commission when attempting to
2 expedite the decision-making process. Companies and other
3 parties to dockets also lack access to the commission's
4 procedure for prioritizing among multiple proceedings. Long
5 delays and a lack of information relating to the decision-making
6 process can result in the failure of time-sensitive projects and
7 is a significant disincentive to companies that might consider
8 developing renewable energy resources and infrastructure.

9 The legislature additionally finds that the State has set a
10 goal of one hundred per cent renewable energy by 2045. Meeting
11 this goal will require significant action on the part of state
12 agencies as well as private entities, many of whom are regulated
13 by the commission. Consistency, efficiency, and transparency in
14 the commission's decision-making process are essential to the
15 abilities of those private entities to take the actions required
16 for the State to meet its renewable energy goal.

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish a consistent,
18 transparent timeframe for the decision-making process of the
19 public utilities commission.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§269- Timely decision making; annual report. (a) When
5 a docket or other proceeding before the public utilities
6 commission is initiated, the commission shall:

7 (1) Take any initial action required of the commission
8 within sixty days after the initiation of the
9 proceeding;

10 (2) Take any subsequent actions required of the commission
11 within sixty days after the fulfilment of the
12 requirements that trigger the action; and

13 (3) Render a decision within one hundred eighty days after
14 fulfilment of the final requirement in the proceeding.

15 (b) The commission may extend a deadline provided in
16 subsection (a) for good cause; provided that the commission
17 notifies in writing all parties to the proceeding of:

18 (1) The commission's reason for extending the deadline;
19 and

20 (2) The date of the extended deadline.



1 (c) The commission shall establish criteria for priority
2 of dockets and other proceedings and shall post those criteria
3 on the commission's public website.

4 (d) The commission shall submit a report summarizing all
5 proceedings, including dockets, that were open at any point in
6 the preceding calendar year to the legislature at least twenty
7 days prior to the convening of each regular legislative session.

8 The annual report shall include:

- 9 (1) A brief description of the proceeding;
10 (2) A list of all parties to the proceeding;
11 (3) A list of all actions taken in the proceeding by all
12 parties;
13 (4) A summary of each deadline extension in the
14 proceeding, including the length of the extension and
15 the reason for the extension; and
16 (5) The length of time it took the commission to reach a
17 final decision in the proceeding."

18 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2022

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 2022

Report Title:

Public Utilities Commission; Decision Making Process; Deadlines; Annual Report

Description:

Establishes a timeframe for the decision-making processes of the Public Utilities Commission. Requires the Commission to establish criteria for prioritizing among multiple proceedings. Requires the Commission to submit a report to the Legislature prior to each regular session on all proceedings that were open at any time during the preceding year.

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

