S.R. NO. ¹ S.D. 1

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING VARIOUS STATE ENTITIES TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THEIR TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, SERVICES, AND POLICIES AND IDENTIFY AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESSIBILITY AND USABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING OR HAVE A SPEECH DISABILITY.

1 WHEREAS, individuals who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech disability must often utilize technology and technology-2 3 based services and equipment to effectively communicate with others; and 4 5 6 WHEREAS, telecommunications relay services are telephone transmission services that provide an individual who has a 7 8 hearing or speech disability with the ability to engage in 9 communication by wire or radio with a hearing individual in a manner that is functionally equivalent to the ability of an 10 individual who does not have a hearing or speech disability to 11 communicate using wire or radio voice communication services; 12 13 and 14 WHEREAS, telecommunications relay services have 15 16 traditionally meant text-to-voice teletypewriter-based services; 17 and 18 WHEREAS, new internet-based technology is now readily 19 20 available; and 21 WHEREAS, many text-to-voice teletypewriter users have 22 23 switched to other means of communication; and 24 25 WHEREAS, the position of the National Association of the Deaf is that it is imperative to periodically update laws and 26 regulations to incorporate new and emerging telecommunications 27 equipment and services to ensure continued accessibility and 28 usability; and 29 30

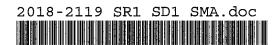


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WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Census 1 2 Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, there are approximately one hundred ten thousand residents in the State 3 4 who are deaf or have a hearing or speech disability; and 5 6 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has a 7 responsibility to implement intrastate telecommunications relay services for individuals who are deaf or have a hearing or 8 9 speech disability; and 10 WHEREAS, the State has established the Office of Enterprise 11 Technology Services headed by the Chief Information Officer who 12 13 is charged with organizing, managing, and overseeing information technology governance in the State; and 14 15 16 WHEREAS, the Disability and Communication Access Board 17 serves as a public advocate for persons with disabilities by providing advice and recommendations with regard to legislation, 18 rules, policies, procedures, and plans relating to persons with 19 disabilities and their civil rights or service needs; now, 20 therefore. 21 22 23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, 24 25 that the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the 26 Disability and Communication Access Board, is requested to 27 28 review existing and emerging telecommunications equipment, 29 services, and policies to ensure continued accessibility and usability for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or 30 have a speech disability, and identify any areas where 31 accessibility and usability can be improved; and 32 33 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Enterprise 35 Technology Services, in consultation with the Public Utilities 36 Commission and the Disability and Communication Access Board, is requested to submit a report of its findings and 37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 39 the Regular Session of 2019; and 40 41



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief Information 3 Officer, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, Director of 4 Health, and Chair of the Disability and Communication Access 5 Board.

