
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MANDATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF BACKUP POWER GENERATORS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS AND COLLECT AND PUBLISH DATA ON CELLULAR TOWER BACKUP CAPACITY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural communities are increasingly
2 reliant on wireless voice communications via wireless
3 communications providers; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in order to deliver reliable communications
6 service during utility power outages, it is necessary for
7 wireless communications providers to have resilient backup
8 power; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission adopted
11 rules on August 6, 2015, to require each provider of a covered
12 service, which is any facilities-based, fixed voice service
13 offered as residential service, including fixed applications of
14 wireless service offered as a residential service, that is not
15 line powered, to offer subscribers, at the point of sale of the
16 covered service, the option to purchase backup power for the
17 covered service; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the adopted rules provide a delayed effective date
20 for providers of covered services with fewer than 100,000
21 domestic retail subscriber lines; however, some wireless
22 communications providers in rural areas in the State have not
23 fully complied with these Federal Communications Commission
24 mandates; and
25

26 WHEREAS, given the potential for natural disasters and
27 other emergencies to significantly affect wireless communication
28 capabilities, this body finds that compliance with the mandates
29 should be accelerated and even expanded to require that the
30 backup power to be obtained from renewable energy sources; and



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 2 WHEREAS, in addition, this body finds that more data and
 3 transparency are necessary to enable the public to make informed
 4 decisions when selecting a wireless communications provider;
 5 now, therefore,

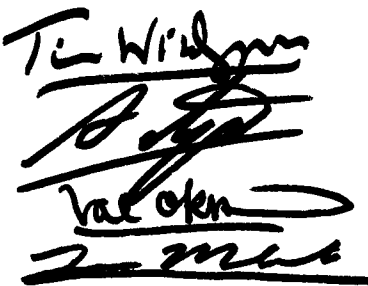
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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 9 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities
 10 Commission is requested to monitor compliance with the Federal
 11 Communications Commission mandates for the deployment of backup
 12 power generators for wireless communications providers; and

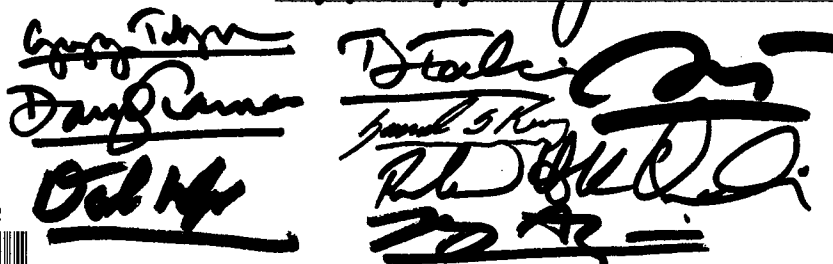
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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
 15 is requested to collect data and publish statistics on cellular
 16 tower backup capacity, including the overall percentages of the
 17 cellular towers that are backed up with generators or batteries;
 18 and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
 21 is requested to organize this data by each wireless
 22 communications provider, which promotes transparency and gives
 23 the public additional information when choosing a wireless
 24 communications provider; and

25
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all wireless communications
 27 providers operating in the State are requested to comply with
 28 the Federal Communications Commission mandates for backup power
 29 sources for cellular towers, prioritizing renewable energy
 30 sources; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
 34 Governor, Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission, and
 35 Administrator of the Hawaii State Energy Office.

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OFFERED BY: Luakitagawa


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