
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, ELECTRIC UTILITIES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPLORE COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO LESSEN THE BURDEN OF ENERGY COSTS ON LOW- AND LIMITED-INCOME AND SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS CUSTOMERS.

1 WHEREAS, Honolulu ranked the third-highest in cost of
2 living among two hundred sixty-eight urban areas in the United
3 States during the third quarter of 2018 and over the last twelve
4 months; and

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6 WHEREAS, in the State, there are 165,000 Asset Limited
7 Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households, constituting
8 thirty-seven percent of the population, while another 47,066
9 households live below the poverty level, constituting eleven
10 percent of the population; and

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12 WHEREAS, in total, forty-eight percent of Hawaii households
13 are ALICE households and below; and

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15 WHEREAS, limited and low-income households are challenged
16 with paying the costs for basic necessities, including electric
17 utility services; and

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19 WHEREAS, some electric utility customers depend on life
20 support equipment at home or may have increased heating or
21 cooling needs due to a medical condition; and

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23 WHEREAS, on January 18, 2017, the Hawaiian Electric
24 Companies filed a Special Medical Needs Tariff, Transmittal No.
25 17-01, requesting that the Public Utilities Commission establish
26 a Special Medical Needs Pilot Program for the two-year period
27 from April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2019; and



1 WHEREAS, on March 28, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission
2 expressed concern that establishing social policy with respect
3 to support for low-income families or customers with special
4 medical needs is more appropriately within the province of the
5 Legislature; and
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7 WHEREAS, this body finds that reasonable programs and
8 initiatives that may moderate the impact of energy costs on low-
9 and limited-income customers and those with special medical
10 needs is consistent with and would support State public policy;
11 now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
15 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities
16 Commission is requested to collaborate with the Division of
17 Consumer Advocacy, electric utilities, and other stakeholders to
18 explore cost-effective solutions to lessen the burden of energy
19 costs on low- and limited-income and special medical needs
20 customers, as this is in the public interest; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public
24 Utilities Commission, Consumer Advocate, and Director of
25 Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

