
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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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32 WHEREAS, in addition, this body finds that more data and
33 transparency are necessary to enable the public to make informed



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Lindseychiza
James B. King

Rory M. Latta

John M. ...
Steve A. ...

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