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# 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 members of the  
2 public utilities commission who reside on the neighbor islands  
3 are not provided any reimbursement for travel expenses, such as  
4 board, lodging, and incidental expenses. For commissioners who  
5 are not residents of the city and county of Honolulu, these  
6 expenses can be significant, as frequent travel to Oahu is  
7 necessary to serve on the public utilities commission. By  
8 permitting an allowance for neighbor island commissioners, the  
9 State may be able to attract qualified candidates from the  
10 neighbor islands, which may help diversify future representation  
11 on the public utilities commission.

12           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to allow public  
13 utilities commission members who are residents of a county other  
14 than the city and county of Honolulu to receive an allowance of  
15 \$225 per day for expenses related to board, lodging, and  
16 incidental expenses, and reimbursement for their actual air  
17 travel expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.



1 SECTION 2. Section 269-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Effective July 1, 2005, the chairperson of the  
4 commission shall be paid a salary set at eighty-seven per cent  
5 of the salary of the director of human resources development,  
6 and each of the other commissioners shall be paid a salary equal  
7 to ninety-five per cent of the chairperson's salary. The  
8 commissioners shall be exempt from chapters 76 and 89 but shall  
9 be members of the state [†]employees' [†] retirement system and  
10 shall be eligible to receive the benefits of any state or  
11 federal employee benefit program generally applicable to  
12 officers and employees of the State, including those under  
13 chapter 87A. A member who is a resident of a county other than  
14 the city and county of Honolulu shall receive, in addition to  
15 reimbursement for their actual air travel expenses incurred in  
16 carrying out their duties, an allowance of \$225 per day to cover  
17 personal expenses such as board, lodging, and incidental  
18 expenses."

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Public Utilities Commission; Commissioners; Travel; Expenses

**Description:**

Allows Public Utilities Commission members who are residents of a county other than the City and County of Honolulu to receive an allowance of \$225 per day for expenses related to board, lodging, and incidental expenses and reimbursement for actual air travel expenses incurred in carrying out the members' duties. (SB550 HD1)

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

