

MAR 08 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFERED BY:

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S.C.R. NO. 137

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