
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MEASURES TO BENEFIT VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS, SUCH AS LOW-INCOME AND RETIRED CUSTOMERS, AND IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL POLICY OBJECTIVES THAT WOULD PREVENT THE SHIFTING OF COSTS TO OTHER RATEPAYERS.

1 WHEREAS, many low-income utility customers and retired
2 senior citizens live on limited or fixed incomes and face tight
3 budgets, requiring them to limit expenses; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the costs of public utilities, including
6 electricity, water, gas, telephone, and telecommunication
7 services, are consistently rising and are difficult to limit or
8 negotiate; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the widening gaps between the rising costs of
11 public utility services and low- or fixed incomes of certain
12 customers and retired senior citizens make it increasingly
13 difficult for them to live within their budgets; and
14

15 WHEREAS, public utilities charging discounted rates to any
16 one customer group may shift costs to other ratepayers or result
17 in a subsidy that could have unintended consequences, making
18 utility bills even less affordable to vulnerable groups of
19 ratepayers; and
20

21 WHEREAS, proactive measures are needed to help low-income
22 customers and retired senior citizen customers maintain a
23 reasonable quality of life despite rising, but necessary, public
24 utility expenses; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
28 that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to investigate
29 measures to benefit vulnerable customers, such as low-income and
30 retired customers, and identify funding sources to support



1 social policy objectives that would prevent the shifting of
2 costs to other ratepayers; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
5 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the Regular Session of 2023; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
12 Consumer Affairs and Chairperson of the Public Utilities
13 Commission.

