

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT
DISABILITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public utilities
2 commission has a duty and obligation to obtain and maintain
3 access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services
4 for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the public utilities
6 commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain
7 information for persons with print disabilities through use of
8 the universal service fund.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
11 designated and to read as follows:

12 "§269- Universal service program; access for individuals
13 with print disabilities. (a) The public utilities commission
14 shall use funds from the universal service fund established
15 pursuant to section 269-42 to provide free telephonic access to
16 time-sensitive information, including but not limited to state



1 and local government information, public notices, emergency
2 alerts, job opportunities, daily newspapers, and other content,
3 to allow individuals who are blind or visually impaired to
4 access information and services. The telephonic access shall be
5 configured accessible to and usable by persons with print
6 disabilities.

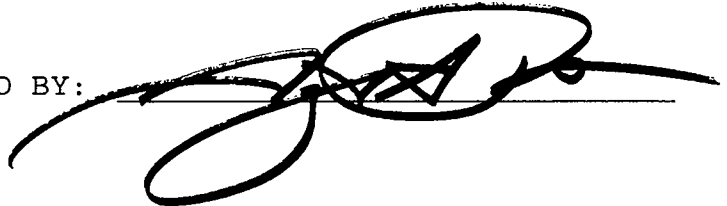
7 (b) The public utilities commission shall adopt rules to
8 implement this section."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and appears to be the name of the person who introduced the bill.

S.B. NO. 611

Report Title:

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Public Utilities Commission;
Telecommunications Access; Universal Service Program

Description:

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to use Universal Service Fund moneys to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with print disabilities.

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

