
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the devastating Maui
5 wildfires on August 8, 2023, was one of the worst natural
6 disasters in the State's history.

7 The legislature further finds that in response to the
8 growing threat of wildfires and other natural hazards, the
9 public utilities commission plays a critical role in the State's
10 efforts to strengthen critical infrastructure, mitigate risks,
11 protect utility customers, and ensure robust recovery following
12 extreme weather events.

13 To effectively address these challenges, it is urgently
14 imperative for the public utilities commission to strengthen the
15 resilience and reliability of electric utility services in the
16 State. These initiatives will require consultants with
17 specialized expertise to provide technical assessments,

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1 evaluations, and recommendations for mitigating storm-related
2 power outages, restoring the grid, rebuilding Maui
3 infrastructure, and preparing for direct impacts of other
4 natural disasters to the State.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to make an
6 emergency appropriation of \$700,000 out of the public utilities
7 commission special fund for the public utilities commission to
8 procure the services of specialized consultants.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the public
10 utilities commission special fund established by section 269-33,
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$700,000 or so much thereof
12 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to contract
13 consultant services for utility dockets.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the public
15 utilities commission for the purposes of this Act.

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

17
18 INTRODUCED BY: Nedine K. Parker

19 BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2025

H.B. NO. 1055

Report Title:

Emergency Appropriation; PUC; Public Utilities Commission
Special Fund; Consultant Services

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation out of the Public Utilities Commission Special Fund for the Public Utilities Commission to procure services by consultants with technical expertise in the efforts to strengthen the resilience and reliability of electric utility services in the State.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

PURPOSE: To make an emergency appropriation for the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to procure services by consultants with technical expertise in the efforts to strengthen the resilience and reliability of electric utility services in the State.

MEANS: An emergency appropriation out of the Public Utilities Special Fund.

JUSTIFICATION: Since the August 2023 Maui Wildfires, the Commission has taken many initiatives in response to the growing threat of wildfires and other natural hazards to the State. The Commission is currently engaged in efforts to strengthen critical infrastructure, mitigate risks, protect utility customers, and ensure resilient recovery after extreme weather events.

The Commission will require technical advice on many aspects, including but not limited to, natural hazard (including wildfire) mitigation plans, resilience and reliability of electric utility services, and utility organization.

Impact on the public: The technical advice from expert consultants will support the Commission's ongoing efforts to increase safety, improve reliability and resiliency, and strengthen the electric grid.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Commission will be able to use consultants with technical expertise to provide recommendations on current standards and best practices.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: \$700,000 (Public Utilities Commission
Special Fund).

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: CCA901.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.