
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE THE INCREASING STATE-LEVEL
OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S
REPEAL OF NET NEUTRALITY AND TO IMMEDIATELY ACT TO RESTORE
NET NEUTRALITY REGULATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Federal Communications Commission
2 adopted net neutrality regulations to protect internet users and
3 ensure all content over the Internet was treated equally and
4 without preferential treatment; and

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6 WHEREAS, however, in 2017, the Federal Communications
7 Commission voted to repeal net neutrality regulations despite
8 heavy opposition by net neutrality supporters who argued the
9 deregulation would allow internet service providers the
10 opportunity to limit or prioritize certain access to information
11 at their discretion; and

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13 WHEREAS, in February 2018, Hawaii Governor David Ige signed
14 an executive order that required all state agencies to obtain
15 their internet-related services from internet service providers
16 who agree to abide by net neutrality principles; and

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18 WHEREAS, Governor Ige has joined governors from Montana,
19 New York, New Jersey, and Vermont in signing executive orders on
20 protecting net neutrality principles; and

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22 WHEREAS, in March 2018, Washington became the first state
23 to pass a law making it illegal for internet service providers
24 to manipulate their networks for money, while dozens of other
25 states are considering similar measures through legislation and
26 lawsuits; and

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28 WHEREAS, in context of the repeal of net neutrality
29 regulations set to take effect on April 23, 2018, it is in the



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1 State's interest to explore the possibility of establishing a
 2 state-owned public utility company to provide high-speed
 3 broadband internet service, similar to municipalities such as
 4 Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Sandy, Oregon, which have had
 5 success with public companies providing internet service; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is essential to
 8 ensure that people can access websites and information freely
 9 and fairly over the Internet; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged to
 14 recognize the increasing state-level opposition to the Federal
 15 Communications Commission's repeal of net neutrality and to
 16 immediately act to restore net neutrality regulations; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
 19 Consumer Affairs is requested to study the costs and benefits to
 20 the State to supply high-speed broadband internet service
 21 through a state-owned public utility company; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
 24 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit a report of findings and
 25 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 27 the Regular Session of 2019; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro
 31 Tempore, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United
 32 States Senate, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader
 33 of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's
 34 Congressional Delegation, Chairperson of the Federal
 35 Communications Commission, the respective Governors and
 36 presiding officers of the legislative bodies of each of the
 37 other forty-nine states, the Governor, and the Director of
 38 Commerce and Consumer Affairs.
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OFFERED BY: 

