
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO REVIEW AND UPDATE ITS
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES AND ACCESS FOR THE DEAF,
INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING DISABILITIES, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
SPEECH DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, individuals who are deaf or who have a hearing or
2 speech disability must often utilize technology and technology-
3 based services and equipment to effectively communicate with
4 others; and

5
6 WHEREAS, telecommunications relay services are telephone
7 transmission services that provide an individual who has a
8 hearing or speech disability with the ability to engage in
9 communication by wire or radio with a hearing individual in a
10 manner that is functionally equivalent to the ability of an
11 individual who does not have a hearing or speech disability to
12 communicate using wire or radio voice communication services;
13 and

14
15 WHEREAS, telecommunications relay services have
16 traditionally meant text-to-voice teletypewriter (TTY)-based
17 services; and

18
19 WHEREAS, new internet-based technology is now readily
20 available; and

21
22 WHEREAS, many text-to-voice teletypewriter users have
23 switched to other means of communication; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the position of the National Association of the
26 Deaf is that it is imperative to periodically update laws and
27 regulations to incorporate new and emerging telecommunications
28 equipment and services to ensure continued accessibility and
29 usability; and

30
31 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Census
32 Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, there are
33 approximately one hundred ten thousand residents in the State
34 who are deaf or have a hearing or speech disability; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has a
3 responsibility to implement intrastate telecommunications relay
4 services for individuals who are deaf or have a hearing or
5 speech disability; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the State has established the Office of Enterprise
8 Technology Services headed by the Chief Information Officer who
9 is charged with organizing, managing, and overseeing information
10 technology governance in the State; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Disability and Communication Access Board
13 serves as a public advocate for persons with disabilities by
14 providing advice and recommendations with regard to legislation,
15 rules, policies, procedures, and plans relating to persons with
16 disabilities and their civil rights or service needs; now,
17 therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2018, that the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, in
22 consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the
23 Disability and Communication Access Board, is requested to
24 review existing and emerging telecommunications equipment,
25 services, and policies to ensure continued accessibility and
26 usability for individuals who are deaf or who have a hearing or
27 speech disability, and identify any areas where accessibility
28 and usability can be improved; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Enterprise
31 Technology Services, in consultation with the Public Utilities
32 Commission and the Disability and Communication Access Board, is
33 requested to submit a report of its findings and
34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2019; and
37
38



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief Information
 3 Officer, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, Director of
 4 the Health, and Chair of the Disability and Communication Access
 5 Board.

OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names follow]

[Left Column Signatures:]
 D.L. Holt
 K. Holt
 Nicole E. Lounsbury
 [Signature]
 Matt Lupton
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]

[Right Column Signatures:]
 [Signature]
 Lynn DeCorte
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]

MAR 09 2018

