
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S RECENT DECISION TO OVERTURN THE
2015 NET NEUTRALITY RULES AND TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT
WOULD RETAIN NET NEUTRALITY NATIONWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, the people of the State of Hawaii and the United
2 States use and depend on the internet for personal, academic,
3 professional, and social purposes; and
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5 WHEREAS, the lack of net neutrality rules prior to 2015
6 allowed internet service providers to favor certain content or
7 service providers over others without informing their customers
8 of such favoritism; and
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10 WHEREAS, the net neutrality rules adopted by the Federal
11 Communications Commission in February 2015 ("2015 net neutrality
12 rules") required internet service providers to offer equal
13 access to websites to their customers, regardless of the
14 customer's internet service plan and regardless of payment by
15 commercial websites; and
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17 WHEREAS, the 2015 net neutrality rules have prevented
18 unequal access to websites because of monetary influence and
19 have thus allowed internet users to access the websites of their
20 own choosing without internet service providers' slowing down
21 data from disfavored websites and speeding up data from favored
22 ones; and
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24 WHEREAS, the proposed new rules of the Federal
25 Communications Commission would harm:
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- 27 (1) Internet entrepreneurs, who could be forced to pay
28 fees for faster delivery of their content; and
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30 (2) Internet users, because the new rules would create
31 incentives for internet service providers to block and



1 throttle websites in order to obtain extra fees from
2 consumers or content providers; and
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4 WHEREAS, the ability of internet service providers to
5 control users' access to online content results in the undue and
6 unjust influence of powerful economic forces and undermines
7 individuals' ability to freely access information or
8 communicate; and
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10 WHEREAS, the ability of internet service providers to
11 control users' access to online content would effectively
12 transform internet service providers into information
13 gatekeepers who could place profits over consumer interests
14 while also controlling what internet users can view and express
15 online; and
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17 WHEREAS, the internet has become a public utility, similar
18 to power and water, and every user has the right to access
19 online content without interference or manipulation by an
20 internet service provider; and
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22 WHEREAS, various states, including New York, Montana,
23 California, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Washington, and
24 Massachusetts, have enacted or will enact their own net
25 neutrality laws to address the Federal Communications
26 Commission's recent decision to overturn the 2015 net neutrality
27 rules, thereby producing a patchwork of different laws in
28 different states; and
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30 WHEREAS, Hawaii has joined 22 other states in filing a
31 petition to the United States Court of Appeals for the District
32 of Columbia Circuit seeking to prevent the Federal
33 Communications Commission from overturning the 2015 net
34 neutrality rules; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2018, that Congress is urged to:



- (1) Oppose the Federal Communications Commission's recent decision to overturn the 2015 net neutrality rules; and
- (2) Pass legislation that would retain net neutrality nationwide, thus allowing individuals equal access to the internet, without any other type of interference or manipulation by internet service providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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