

JAN 24 2018

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UTILITY POLES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that new utility poles  
2 are often installed adjacent to an existing utility pole and the  
3 original pole is left in place. This results in what is  
4 sometimes referred to as double poles. In some instances, a  
5 third pole is installed next to two existing poles, resulting in  
6 a triple pole. In most cases, this occurs when the electric  
7 utility deems it necessary to install a new pole: the electric  
8 utility transfers its wiring to the new pole and the other  
9 utilities, such as telephone, cable television, and municipal  
10 street lights, remain on the original pole.

11       The joint pole committee is entrusted with coordination of  
12 access and responsibilities between all affected agencies  
13 regarding utility poles. One guideline is that the last utility  
14 provider to relocate its equipment to the new pole should be  
15 responsible for removal of the original pole. As such, many  
16 double poles remain indefinitely because no utility provider



1 wants to be the last agency to relocate its equipment and become  
2 responsible for the removal of the original pole.

3 The legislature further finds that many of the original  
4 poles that remain in place are unsafe due to termite damage,  
5 rot, collision damage from vehicles, and many other safety  
6 concerns, and many of the original poles remain even after all  
7 other utility equipment has been relocated. These double and  
8 triple poles mar the natural beauty of the State and create a  
9 safety hazard, and should not be permitted.

10 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit new utility pole  
11 installation within ten feet of an existing utility pole unless  
12 the relevant utility service providers remove the original pole  
13 within ninety days of installation of the new pole.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§269- Installation of new utility poles; removal of old  
18 utility poles. (a) A public utility shall not install,  
19 construct, erect, or otherwise build a new utility pole within  
20 ten feet of an existing utility pole unless the original utility  
21 pole will be uninstalled and removed within ninety days of



SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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# S.B. NO. 3064

**Report Title:**

Utility Poles; Public Utilities

**Description:**

Prohibits public utilities from installing a new utility pole within ten feet of an existing utility pole; unless the original utility pole will be removed within ninety days of installing the new utility pole.

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

