

JAN 18 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I 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

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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

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

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

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

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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

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S.C.R. NO. 1

1 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Census
2 Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, there are
3 approximately one hundred ten thousand residents in the State
4 who are deaf or have a hearing or speech disability; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has a
7 responsibility to implement intrastate telecommunications relay
8 services for individuals who are deaf or have a hearing or
9 speech disability; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State has established the Office of Enterprise
12 Technology Services headed by the Chief Information Officer who
13 is charged with organizing, managing, and overseeing information
14 technology governance in the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Disability and Communication Access Board
17 serves as a public advocate for persons with disabilities by
18 providing advice and recommendations with regard to legislation,
19 rules, policies, procedures, and plans relating to persons with
20 disabilities and their civil rights or service needs; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of
26 Enterprise Technology Services, in consultation with the Public
27 Utilities Commission and the Disability and Communication Access
28 Board, is requested to review existing and emerging
29 telecommunications equipment, services, and polices to ensure
30 continued accessibility and usability for individuals who are
31 deaf or who have a hearing or speech disability, and identify
32 any areas where accessibility and usability can be improved; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Enterprise
35 Technology Services, in consultation with the Public Utilities
36 Commission and the Disability and Communication Access Board, is
37 requested to submit a report of its findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
40 the Regular Session of 2019; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief
3 Information Officer, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission,
4 Director of the Health, and Chair of the Disability and
5 Communication Access Board.

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OFFERED BY:

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