

JAN 18 2018

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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

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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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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



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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  
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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  
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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,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
21 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  
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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



# S.R. NO. 1

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.

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8 OFFERED BY:

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