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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONSIDER  
REASONABLE RATEMAKING TREATMENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE  
SOLUTIONS TO LESSEN THE BURDEN OF ENERGY COSTS ON LOW- AND  
LIMITED-INCOME AND SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS CUSTOMERS.

1           WHEREAS, Honolulu ranked the third-highest in cost of  
2 living among two hundred sixty-eight urban areas in the United  
3 States during the third quarter of 2018 and over the last twelve  
4 months; and

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6           WHEREAS, in the State, there are 165,000 Asset Limited  
7 Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households, constituting  
8 thirty-seven percent of the population, while another 47,066  
9 households live below the poverty level, constituting eleven  
10 percent of the population; and

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12           WHEREAS, in total, forty-eight percent of Hawaii households  
13 meet or fall below the ALICE threshold; and

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15           WHEREAS, limited and low-income households are challenged  
16 with paying for the costs of basic necessities, including  
17 electric utility services; and

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19           WHEREAS, some electric utility customers depend on life  
20 support equipment at home or may have increased heating or  
21 cooling needs due to a medical condition; and

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23           WHEREAS, on January 18, 2017, the Hawaiian Electric  
24 Companies filed a Special Medical Needs Tariff, Transmittal No.  
25 17-01, requesting that the Public Utilities Commission establish  
26 a Special Medical Needs Pilot Program for the two-year period  
27 from April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2019; and

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29           WHEREAS, on March 28, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission  
30 expressed concern that establishing social policy with respect



1 to support for low-income families or customers with special  
2 medical needs is more appropriately within the province of the  
3 Legislature; and  
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5 WHEREAS, this body finds that reasonable programs and  
6 initiatives that may moderate the impact of energy costs on low-  
7 and limited-income customers and those with special medical  
8 needs is consistent with and would support State public policy;  
9 now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
12 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
13 Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities Commission  
14 is requested to consider reasonable ratemaking treatment and  
15 cost-effective solutions that would lessen the burden of energy  
16 costs on low- and limited-income and special medical needs  
17 customers; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
20 and interested stakeholders, including the electric utility  
21 companies, are requested to explore cost-effective solutions  
22 that lessen the burden of energy costs on low- and limited-  
23 income and special medical needs customers; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public  
27 Utilities Commission, Consumer Advocate, and Director of  
28 Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

