
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 is requested to approve a subsidy through utility rates to
21 establish a program to assist low-income customers and customers
22 with special medical needs until a state-funded program is
23 established; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
26 and interested stakeholders, including the electric utility
27 companies, are requested to explore cost-effective solutions
28 that lessen the burden of energy costs on low- and limited-
29 income and special medical needs customers; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public
33 Utilities Commission, Consumer Advocate, and Director of
34 Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

