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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRINT  
DISABILITIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the public utilities  
2 commission has a duty and obligation to obtain and maintain  
3 access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services  
4 for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

5           The purpose of this Act is to require the public utilities  
6 commission to provide free telecommunications access to  
7 information for persons with print disabilities through use of  
8 the universal service fund established pursuant to section  
9 269-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10           SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
12 designated and to read as follows:

13           "§269-    Universal service program; access for individuals  
14 with print disabilities. (a) The public utilities commission  
15 shall use funds from the universal service fund established  
16 pursuant to section 269-42 to provide free telephonic access to



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1 time-sensitive information, including but not limited to state  
2 and local government information, public notices, emergency  
3 alerts, job opportunities, daily newspapers, and other content,  
4 to allow individuals who are blind or visually impaired to  
5 access information and services. The telephonic access shall be  
6 in formats accessible to and usable by persons with print  
7 disabilities.

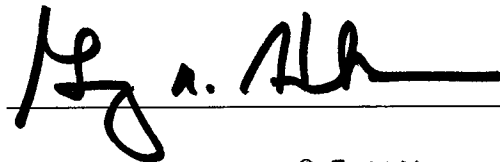
8 (b) The public utilities commission shall adopt rules to  
9 implement this section."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2021



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**Report Title:**

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Telecommunications Access

**Description:**

Requires the use of the public utilities commission's universal service fund to provide free telecommunications access to information for individuals with print disabilities.

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

