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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO  
ADDRESS THE RISE IN ILLEGAL TEXT MESSAGES.

1 WHEREAS, text messages could be the new method for  
2 criminals to scam consumers; and  
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4 WHEREAS, phone companies are not required to block texts;  
5 however, many phone services do block unsolicited robocalls; and  
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7 WHEREAS, it has been reported that existing spam apps are  
8 not effective at filtering text messages; and  
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10 WHEREAS, it has been reported that consumers received  
11 7,650,000 spam text messages in August, 2021, up eight percent  
12 from June, 2021; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission received 334,833  
15 complaints about scam text messages last year, more than double  
16 the number from previous years; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission has determined that  
19 text messaging has developed as the third most popular way for  
20 scammers to connect with consumers; and  
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22 WHEREAS, text messaging is effective for scammers because  
23 the text messages can be designated to appear harmless and allow  
24 scammers to trick consumers into giving out personal information  
25 without realizing it is happening; and  
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27 WHEREAS, once scammers obtain a consumer's personal  
28 information, they can transfer money out of bank accounts, use  
29 the consumer's identity, or sell the consumer's information to a  
30 third-party; and  
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32 WHEREAS, text messaging is also a preferred method for a  
33 criminal to gain complete control over a person's phone; now,  
34 therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2022, that the United States Congress is urged to enact  
4 legislation to address the rise in illegal text messages; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is  
7 urged to consult the Federal Communications Commission to  
8 develop proposed legislation; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United  
12 States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
13 Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, Chairman of  
14 the Federal Communications Commission, and Chairman of the  
15 Federal Trade Commission.  
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OFFERED BY:

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