

MAR 08 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

13
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

21
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



S.C.R. NO. 26

1 WHEREAS, text messaging is also a preferred method for a
2 criminal to gain complete control over a person's phone; now,
3 therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
8 Congress is urged to enact legislation to address the rise in
9 illegal text messages; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
12 urged to consult the Federal Communications Commission to
13 develop proposed legislation; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of
17 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
18 Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, Chairman of
19 the Federal Communications Commission, and Chairman of the
20 Federal Trade Commission.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett L. Mendel", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.