
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, there are concerns that text messages could be the
2 new method for 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 approximately 7,650,000 spam text messages in August 2021, up
12 eight percent 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 designed to appear harmless and allow
24 scammers to trick consumers into unwittingly giving out personal
25 information; 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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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 also urged to consult with the Federal Communications Commission
13 and Federal Trade Commission to develop proposed legislation;
14 and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of
18 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
19 Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, Chairperson
20 of the Federal Communications Commission, and Chairperson of the
21 Federal Trade Commission.
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