## 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 appropriate funds to the
- 6 public utilities commission to provide free telecommunications
- 7 access to certain information for persons with a print
- 8 disability.
- 9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
- 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
- 12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
- 13 2024-2025 to provide free telecommunications access to certain
- 14 information for persons with a print disability.
- 15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the public
- 16 utilities commission for the purposes of this Act.



- 1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
- 2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
- 3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
- 4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
- 5 C.D. 1, will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
- 6 for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by \$1,063,767,367 or
- 7 10 per cent. In addition, the appropriations contained in this
- 8 Act will cause the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal
- 9 year 2023-2024 to be further exceeded by \$150,000 or 1 per cent.
- 10 The combined total amount of general fund appropriations
- 11 contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general
- 12 fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be
- 13 exceeded by \$1,063,917,367 or 11 per cent. The reasons for
- 14 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:
- 15 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- serve the public interest; and
- 17 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 18 addressed by this Act.
- 19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

## Report Title:

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Public Utilities Commission; Print Disabilities; Telecommunications Access; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

## Description:

Appropriates funds to the Public Utilities Commission to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with a print disability. (CD1)

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