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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 certain  
7 information for persons with a print disability through use of  
8 the universal service fund.

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

12           "§269-           Universal service program; access for  
13 individuals with print disabilities. (a) The public utilities  
14 commission shall, as authorized by the legislature, use  
15 available funds from the universal service fund established  
16 pursuant to section 269-42 to provide free telecommunications



1 access to time-sensitive information, including but not limited  
 2 to state and local government information, public notices,  
 3 emergency alerts, job opportunities, daily newspapers, and other  
 4 content, to allow individuals with a print disability to access  
 5 information and services; provided that the amount of funds  
 6 withdrawn from the universal service fund shall not exceed  
 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . The telecommunications access shall be configured  
 8 to be accessible to and usable by persons with print  
 9 disabilities.

10 (b) The public utilities commission shall adopt rules  
 11 pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section."

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so  
 14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
 15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
 16 year 2024-2025 to provide free telecommunications access to  
 17 certain information for persons with a print disability.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the public  
 19 utilities commission for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.

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**Report Title:**

Deaf and Blind Task Force; Public Utilities Commission; Print Disabilities; Telecommunications Access; Universal Service Program; Universal Service Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the public utilities commission to use universal service fund moneys to provide free telecommunications access to certain information for individuals with a print disability. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

