
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO OPEN A NEW PROCEEDING
RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED OR DOUBLE UTILITY
POLES, LINES, AND EQUIPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission regulates all
2 chartered, franchised, certificated, and registered public
3 utility companies operating in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission's administrative
6 rules adopted the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Safety
7 Code as it pertains to the installation, operation, and
8 maintenance of overhead and underground electrical supply and
9 communication lines; and
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11 WHEREAS, the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Safety
12 Code states that "[l]ines and equipment permanently abandoned
13 shall be removed or maintained in a safe condition"; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian
16 Electric) is a utility company in the State that provides
17 electric services via lines using wooden poles within existing
18 county and state street rights-of-way to residential communities
19 and businesses; and
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21 WHEREAS, Hawaiian Electric owns over 120,000 utility poles
22 on the island of Oahu; and
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24 WHEREAS, when a new utility pole is installed adjacent to
25 an existing utility pole for the purpose of transferring
26 electric, telephone, cable, or other wires from one pole to
27 another, the original pole is often left in place, resulting in
28 what is referred to as double poles; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are thousands of derelict utility poles,
2 double poles, and utility lines abandoned across Hawaii
3 neighborhoods; and

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5 WHEREAS, the derelict utility and communication lines,
6 abandoned utility poles, and redundant double poles should be
7 removed in a timely manner due to their growing threat to public
8 safety; and

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10 WHEREAS, the removal of unnecessary and unsightly derelict
11 lines and poles will eliminate potential public hazards,
12 organize communication and utility pole lines, and favorably
13 influence the surrounding community; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
17 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Public
18 Utilities Commission is urged to open a new proceeding relating
19 to the removal of abandoned lines, double poles, and equipment;
20 and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
23 is requested to submit a status report of the new proceeding to
24 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
25 of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioners of the
29 Public Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive
30 Officer of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

