

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CELLULAR TOWERS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

- 1           SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:  
4           "§321-       Radiofrequency exposure; public health guidance;  
5 statewide measurements. (a) The department of health shall  
6 develop, publish, and periodically update public health guidance  
7 and educational materials regarding radiofrequency energy  
8 exposure from cellular towers, including:  
9           (1) Summaries of finding of relevant scientific studies;  
10           (2) Explanations of exposure sources and measurement  
11                 methods;  
12           (3) Descriptions of potential effects on human health and  
13                 the environment;  
14           (4) Information, including links to and references for  
15                 applicable federal exposure standards;  
16           (5) An explanation of how radiofrequency energy is  
17                 transmitted, how exposure occurs, and the basic



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1           principles governing its interaction with people and  
2           the environment; and

3           (6) Procedures for how individuals may search for the  
4           locations of cellular towers in their neighborhoods.

5 The department shall publish the public health guidance and  
6 educational materials on its public website and, upon request,  
7 provide copies to members of the public by mail.

8           (b) The department shall conduct statewide radiofrequency  
9 energy measurements, which shall:

10           (1) Include measurements of fifth-generation (5G)  
11           millimeter wave radiofrequency energy; and

12           (2) Specify the radiofrequency energy measurements in  
13           various locations alongside the potential health and  
14           environmental effects associated with those levels of  
15           radiofrequency energy exposure.

16 The department shall publish these measurements and any findings  
17 on its public website.

18           (c) For the purposes of this section:

19           "Personal wireless services" has the same meaning as  
20 defined in title 47 United States Code section 332.



1       "Cellular antenna" means an antenna, repeater, equipment,  
2 wireless-related infrastructure, or other accessory structures  
3 used to transmit and receive radiofrequency signals for personal  
4 wireless services.

5       "Cellular tower" means a freestanding mast, pole, monopole,  
6 guyed tower, lattice tower, free standing tower, or other  
7 structure designed and primarily used to support one or more  
8 cellular antennas and any related equipment, shelters, or  
9 cabinets necessary for the operation of the antennas."

10       SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
11 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
12 read as follows:

13       "§46-     Cellular towers and antennas; vegetation  
14 management. (a) For any lease, easement, permit, or other  
15 authorization issued by a county for the placement or operation  
16 of a cellular tower or cellular antenna on county lands, the  
17 county shall prohibit the trimming, removal, or alteration of  
18 trees or vegetation solely to improve wireless signal reception  
19 or network performance, except to the extent necessary to  
20 address immediate safety hazards or prevent material damage to  
21 telecommunications equipment; provided that this prohibition



1 shall not be enforced in a manner that prohibits or has the  
2 effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless  
3 services.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section, "personal wireless  
5 services", "cellular antenna", and "cellular tower" have the  
6 same meaning as those terms are defined in section 321- ."

7 SECTION 3. If any part of this Act is found to be in  
8 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed  
9 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the  
10 conflicting part of this Act is inoperative solely to the extent  
11 of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly  
12 affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the  
13 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies  
14 concerned.

15 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the  
16 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
17 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
18 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
19 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
20 of this Act are severable.



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1           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
4 the department of health to conduct statewide radiofrequency  
5 energy measurements.

6           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
7 health for the purposes of this Act.

8           SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

9           SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabbard*



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**Report Title:**

DOH; Counties; Cellular Tower; Cellular Antenna; Radiofrequency Energy; Exposure; Testing; Vegetation Management; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to provide public guidance on radiofrequency energy exposure and conduct statewide monitoring. Prohibits the trimming, removal, or alteration of trees or vegetation by counties around cellular towers or antennas solely to improve wireless signal reception or network performance, except as necessary for safety or protection of the equipment. Appropriates funds.

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

