HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014  
STATE OF HAWAI'I

H.R. NO. 146

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON THE  
INSTALLATION AND PROMOTION OF SMART METERS UNTIL THEY ARE  
PROVEN SAFE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY,  
AND SECURITY OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, certain jurisdictions in Hawaii and elsewhere are  
transitioning to the use of smart meters, which are devices that  
track and record details of customers' energy usage and  
automatically transmit the information to the utility provider  
by wireless frequencies; and

WHEREAS, smart meters are an integral part of a smart grid  
and have started to replace analog meters that are read manually  
on a monthly basis by local meter readers; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine in  
a letter to the California Utilities Commission called for an  
immediate moratorium on smart meter installation and later  
restated its call for a moratorium based on new scientific  
evidence demonstrating the correlation between smart meter  
emissions and adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, many research studies show adverse biological  
effects from pulsed microwave frequency radiation, such as that  
emitted by smart meters, at exposure levels far below the  
Federal Communications Commission limits; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission guidelines  
are substantially outdated since they are based on research that  
dates back to 1986, well before the proliferation of cell phone  
and WiFi use, and based on data related to limited exposure for  
adult men, but not pervasive and ongoing exposure or exposure  
for women and children; and
WHEREAS, studies have shown damage from this type of radiation to the environment resulting in biological effects in plants, trees, animals, and insects, including birth defects and fertility problems in cattle; and

WHEREAS, radio/microwave frequencies are not confined to specific households or buildings, but rather affect any objects or people in their path, as they pass through most known substances, exposing any person in the area to radiation without consent; and

WHEREAS, the Radiofrequency Interagency Work Group identified 14 deficiencies in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers radio frequency standard in 1999, and the standard has not been brought up to date; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of Santa Cruz County in a memorandum to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on health risks associated with smart meters noted, "there is no scientific data to determine if there is a safe radio frequency exposure level regarding its non-thermal effects"; and:

WHEREAS, countries, including China, Russia, and most of Europe, have significantly lower exposure standards than the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has categorized radio/microwave frequency radiation, such as that emitted by smart meters, as a Class 2B potential carcinogen and, should it upgrade this type of radiation to Class 2A, all existing smart meters will have to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2014, Northeast Utilities, New England's largest utility system, with almost 4,000,000 customers, indicated in a statement to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities that advanced metering infrastructure is costly for consumers and that there are other grid modernization technologies and strategies that are more cost effective; and
WHEREAS, some consumers who have transitioned to the use of
smart meters have experienced an increase in their utility bills
and inaccurate billing and have consequently pursued litigation
due to sky-rocketing electricity bills; and

WHEREAS, contrary to promotional advertising, studies show
smart meter mesh networks are energy-demanding, consuming
significant amounts of electricity and will not lead to greener
or more sustainable energy; and

WHEREAS, fires from smart meters have been reported from
around the world, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, smart meters may not be as cost effective as once
thought when considering the costs of fires started by smart
meters, treating unforeseen health issues, mitigating cyber
attacks, implementing security precautions, and addressing
potential lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, smart meters relay previously undisclosed data
reflecting power usage without adequately protecting this
potentially sensitive information; accordingly, this data may be
accessed by unauthorized persons or entities and could result in
an intrusion into customers' privacy rights and security
interests; and

WHEREAS, utility companies have been shown to mine and sell
smart data to corporations and to share it with government
agencies; and

WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii has
condemned the lack of consumer privacy of smart meters that
track the ebb and flow of water, gas, and electricity due to the
disclosure of detailed information about private life, including
energy usage data measured moment to moment, that allows the
reconstruction of a household's activities; and

WHEREAS, concerns pertaining to the vulnerability of smart
grid technology to hacking and cyber terrorism have been raised
by some security officials and industry experts, particularly
related to making energy systems accessible on the Internet
through public IP addresses that may allow smart meters to be
turned off remotely, thereby halting energy supply; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of jurisdictions throughout the
United States, representing millions of people, that are opposed
to mandatory smart meters, and some of these have made smart
meter installation illegal; and

WHEREAS, as part of an ongoing Integrated Resource Planning
process, the Public Utilities Commission has requested that
Hawaiian Electric Company investigate the adoption and
utilization of a smart grid, including smart meters, to
facilitate energy distribution statewide by Hawaiian Electric
Company and its subsidiaries; and

WHEREAS, a citizen petition calling for the halt to smart
meter installation and smart grid technologies in Hawaii has
over 1,000 signatures; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
Session of 2014, that this body supports an immediate moratorium
on the installation and promotion of smart meters by state
agencies and organizations receiving state funding until smart
meters are proven safe to public health and the environment,
economy, and security of the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
requested to investigate the impact of smart meters on public
health and to submit a report of its findings and
recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior
to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and
Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, who is requested
to forward a copy to the Chief Executive Officers of each
electric utility in the State.

OFFERED BY: 

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