
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.

1 WHEREAS, certain jurisdictions in Hawaii and elsewhere are
2 transitioning to the use of smart meters, which are devices that
3 track and record details of customers' energy usage and
4 automatically transmit the information to the utility provider
5 by wireless frequencies; and
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7 WHEREAS, smart meters are an integral part of a smart grid
8 and have started to replace analog meters that are read manually
9 on a monthly basis by local meter readers; and
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11 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine in
12 a letter to the California Utilities Commission called for an
13 immediate moratorium on smart meter installation and later
14 restated its call for a moratorium based on new scientific
15 evidence demonstrating the correlation between smart meter
16 emissions and adverse health effects; and
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18 WHEREAS, many research studies show adverse biological
19 effects from pulsed microwave frequency radiation, such as that
20 emitted by smart meters, at exposure levels far below the
21 Federal Communications Commission limits; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission guidelines
24 are substantially outdated since they are based on research that
25 dates back to 1986, well before the proliferation of cell phone
26 and WiFi use, and based on data related to limited exposure for
27 adult men, but not pervasive and ongoing exposure or exposure
28 for women and children; and



1 WHEREAS, studies have shown damage from this type of
2 radiation to the environment resulting in biological effects in
3 plants, trees, animals, and insects, including birth defects and
4 fertility problems in cattle; and

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

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

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

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

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

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33 WHEREAS, in January of 2014, Northeast Utilities, New
34 England's largest utility system, with almost 4,000,000
35 customers, indicated in a statement to the Massachusetts
36 Department of Public Utilities that advanced metering
37 infrastructure is costly for consumers and that there are other
38 grid modernization technologies and strategies that are more
39 cost effective; and



1 WHEREAS, some consumers who have transitioned to the use of
2 smart meters have experienced an increase in their utility bills
3 and inaccurate billing and have consequently pursued litigation
4 due to sky-rocketing electricity bills; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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38 WHEREAS, concerns pertaining to the vulnerability of smart
39 grid technology to hacking and cyber terrorism have been raised
40 by some security officials and industry experts, particularly
41 related to making energy systems accessible on the Internet



1 through public IP addresses that may allow smart meters to be
2 turned off remotely, thereby halting energy supply; and
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4 WHEREAS, there are a number of jurisdictions throughout the
5 United States, representing millions of people, that are opposed
6 to mandatory smart meters, and some of these have made smart
7 meter installation illegal; and
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9 WHEREAS, as part of an ongoing Integrated Resource Planning
10 process, the Public Utilities Commission has requested that
11 Hawaiian Electric Company investigate the adoption and
12 utilization of a smart grid, including smart meters, to
13 facilitate energy distribution statewide by Hawaiian Electric
14 Company and its subsidiaries; and
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16 WHEREAS, a citizen petition calling for the halt to smart
17 meter installation and smart grid technologies in Hawaii has
18 over 1,000 signatures; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2014, that this body supports an immediate moratorium
23 on the installation and promotion of smart meters by state
24 agencies and organizations receiving state funding until smart
25 meters are proven safe to public health and the environment,
26 economy, and security of the State; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
29 requested to investigate the impact of smart meters on public
30 health and to submit a report of its findings and
31 recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior
32 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and
36 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, who is requested
37 to forward a copy to the Chief Executive Officers of each
38 electric utility in the State.
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OFFERED BY: 
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