



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO
ACT 213, SECTION 112, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2007

REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO REPORT ON THE
STATUS OF HIRING THE POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY ACT 213, SECTION
112, AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE RESTRUCTURING PLAN RESULTING FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL
REVIEW CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO ACT 143,
SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2006

December 2007

STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Status Report Submitted to the Legislature pursuant to Act 213, section 112, Session Laws of Hawaii ("SLH") 2007 requiring the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to report on the status of hiring the positions authorized by Act 213, section 112, and on the progress made towards implementation of the restructuring plan resulting from the organizational review conducted pursuant to Act 143, SLH 2006 ("Act 143"), an Act Relating to Public Utilities

Background

Recognizing the need to review and supplement the capabilities and resources of the Commission, the Legislature passed, and Governor Lingle signed into law, Act 143. Section 2 of Act 143 provides:

The public utilities commission shall conduct an in-depth review of its organization to develop a comprehensive plan to restructure and supplement the commission and its resources to function more effectively and efficiently in light of, among other matters, changing regulatory conditions, duties, and requirements and advances in technology; and submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 2007. In the report, the public utilities commission shall specify the specific types and numbers of positions, and the amounts necessary to restructure the commission and supplement its resources as may be necessary and appropriate; and propose any necessary legislation.

The Commission submitted the report ("Act 143 Report") required by Act 143 to the Legislature in December 2006, detailing several changes to improve and enhance its policy and analytical focus and functions, and describing a minor restructuring of other areas that will enable the Commission and its staff to function more efficiently.

The 2007 Legislature passed, and Governor Lingle signed into law, Act 177, SLH 2007 ("Act 177"), which put into law the changes and restructuring requested by the Commission in its Act 143 Report. Also in 2007, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the Executive Budget into law as Act 213, SLH 2007 ("Act 213"). Act 213 appropriated funds to the Commission and authorized seven additional positions for fiscal year 2009. Section 112 of Act 213 is a budget proviso requiring the Commission to submit this report twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 and 2009 regular sessions of the Legislature.

Act 177 provided for the following:

- (1) The restructuring of the policy and research section and the establishment of the consumer affairs and compliance and administrative support sections;
- (2) The addition of fourteen (14) positions (seven (7) in fiscal year 2009 and seven (7) in fiscal year 2010);
- (3) The conversion of seven (7) temporary petroleum related positions to permanent positions;
- (4) The redescription of twelve (12) existing positions; and
- (5) That additional office space be leased and the office relocated.

Status of Implementation

At this time, the seven (7) temporary petroleum related positions have been converted to permanent positions. Four (4) of the seven (7) positions are currently filled:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Position No.</u>	<u>Status</u>
PUC Economist	117629	Filled
PUC Atty.	117634	Vacant
Research Asst.	117633	Filled
Research Asst.	117631	Vacant
Clerk Typist II	117643	Filled
Enforcement Officer	117642	Filled
Secretary I	117632	Vacant

Recruitment is ongoing for the vacant Attorney and Research Assistant positions. The Secretary I position cannot be filled until the restructuring of the policy and research section is complete.

The redescrptions of the twelve (12) existing positions are ongoing and their completion should coincide with the final approvals of reorganization requests that will reflect all appropriate position and section restructuring on the Commission's organizational chart.

The fourteen (14) additional positions are in the process of being described and classified, but final establishment, recruitment and hiring cannot begin until July 2008 for the seven (7) positions funded in fiscal year 2009. As previously noted, the remaining seven (7) positions are planned to be funded in fiscal year 2010 and are thus subject to receiving necessary budget approvals.

With regard to increased space requirements and relocation, since the allotted funding only allows a partial relocation of the offices of the Commission, the Commission is currently assessing whether it must relocate the entire office or whether it could move only a portion of its staff to a different location and still be efficient.

In the first half of 2008, the Commission plans on completing the descriptions of the restructured sections, the twelve (12) existing positions, and the seven (7) new positions allotted for in fiscal year 2009. Recruitment and hiring to fill the new positions will begin as soon as possible after July 1, 2008.