



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REP. WARD SUGGESTS CELL BREAKS

Rep. Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today introduced a "don't dial, don't pay" resolution encouraging cellular phone carriers to implement one-way charges for calls on their networks. The resolution calls for the subscriber to be charged that initiates the call rather than both the subscriber and the person receiving the call.

Currently, most wireless phone subscribers are charged by providers twice for the same call, once to the person initiating the call, and again to the person receiving the call for the duration of the call.

Ward, a graduate of the East-West Center, first got the idea from a fellow alumnus visiting from India. He said the poorest dirt farmer in India can afford a cell phone because the person receiving an incoming call does not have to pay.

"As carriers amortize their cell towers and infrastructure, the cost of calls should decrease as we've seen happen with the price of long distance calls all over the world. The same evolution of pricing should occur with two-way charges on cell phones in the United States," Ward concluded.

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Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives
and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley.