

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has a long-  
2 established presence in Hawaii through collaboration among its  
3 various offices and national laboratories with state and county  
4 agencies, the private sector, and local communities; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, in 2008, the State and the United States  
7 Department of Energy signed a memorandum of understanding that  
8 established the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and created a  
9 long-term partnership to provide a replicable global model that  
10 transforms the way that renewable energy efficiency resources  
11 are planned and used through the substantive transformation of  
12 the financial, regulatory, legal, and institutional systems that  
13 govern energy planning and delivery within the State; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature passed Act 73, Session  
16 Laws of Hawaii 2010, to statutorily establish the Hawaii Clean  
17 Energy Initiative Program and designate the Department of  
18 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as the lead agency  
19 for the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, in 2014, the State and the United States  
22 Department of Energy recommitted to the Hawaii Clean Energy  
23 Initiative partnership through an updated memorandum of  
24 understanding to transition from fossil fuel imports in favor of  
25 local renewable resources and efficiency to develop "a national  
26 model for job creation, industrial transformation, environmental  
27 compliance, and technological innovation"; and  
28



1           WHEREAS, since recommitting to the partnership, Hawaii has  
2 established itself as a global leader on energy policy by being  
3 the first state to:

4  
5           (1) Commit to:

6  
7           (A) Achieving a one hundred percent renewable  
8 portfolio standard through Act 97, Session Laws  
9 of Hawaii 2015;

10  
11           (B) Mitigating and adapting to climate change  
12 consistent with the Paris Agreement through  
13 Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017; and

14  
15           (C) Achieving net-negative greenhouse gas emissions  
16 through Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018; and

17  
18           (2) Declare a climate emergency through Senate Concurrent  
19 Resolution No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, (2021); and  
20

21           WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 122, Session Laws of  
22 Hawaii 2019, which created the Hawaii State Energy Office as an  
23 independent agency administratively attached to the Department  
24 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and tasked it  
25 with the functions and responsibilities for a clean energy  
26 economy, including leading the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative,  
27 and whose Chief Energy Officer is appointed by the Governor and  
28 confirmed by the Senate; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and the State's  
31 establishment of the first one hundred percent renewable  
32 portfolio standard by 2045 was followed by twelve states  
33 adopting similar targets, and the Biden-Harris Administration's  
34 national target for a carbon pollution-free electricity sector  
35 by 2035 and carbon neutrality economy-wide by 2050; and  
36

37           WHEREAS, in 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration  
38 established the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government  
39 approach to ensure that federal agencies work with states and  
40 local communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall  
41 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to  
42 disadvantaged communities; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, with respect to the nation as a whole, Hawaii has  
3 a disproportionate number of communities experiencing low income  
4 with high or persistent poverty; high unemployment and  
5 underemployment; linguistic isolation; high housing, energy, and  
6 transportation cost burdens; disproportionate environmental  
7 stressors and impacts from climate change; and other effects  
8 that define disadvantaged communities for purposes of the  
9 Justice40 Initiative; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is refocusing the  
12 objectives of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to more  
13 expressly incorporate equity and justice in energy policy  
14 through initiatives such as the Climate Ready Hawaii VISTA and  
15 Clean Energy Wayfinders programs; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a member of the Pacific ohana of nations  
18 and islands, which also have large numbers of similarly  
19 disadvantaged communities and are of strategic importance to the  
20 United States; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a center for public diplomacy in the  
23 Indo-Pacific region and the host to the United States Indo-  
24 Pacific Command and facilities for each of the six service  
25 branches of the Department of Defense; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration  
28 established an Indo-Pacific national security strategy that  
29 includes an economic framework to encourage innovation,  
30 strengthen economic competitiveness, produce good-paying jobs,  
31 rebuild supply chains, and expand economic opportunities through  
32 investments, such as those in decarbonization and clean energy;  
33 and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the 2022 Indo-Pacific national security strategy  
36 seeks to build resiliency by developing 2030 and 2050 targets,  
37 strategies, plans, and policies consistent with limiting the  
38 global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, the interests of the State and the Biden-Harris  
41 Administration are aligned to transform Hawaii's energy system



1 to promote clean energy in the State and throughout the Indo-  
2 Pacific region; now, therefore,

3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State  
7 Energy Office is requested to engage the United States  
8 Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within  
9 the State of Hawaii; and

10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Director of  
12 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all  
13 departments and agencies with energy-related duties and  
14 responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy  
15 Officer in this endeavor; and

16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office  
18 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
20 2024 on the status of the engagement and the terms of any  
21 proposed agreement; and

22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
25 Secretary of Energy; members of the Hawaii congressional  
26 delegation; Governor; Director of Business, Economic  
27 Development, and Tourism; and Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii  
28 State Energy Office.

29

30

31

OFFERED BY: Michelle E. Loven

**FEB 23 2023**

