

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY TO  
WORK WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO DEVELOP NEW  
MASTER AND STRATEGIC PLANS.

1           WHEREAS, the State has invested over \$130,000,000 in the  
2 creation and operation of the Hawaii Ocean Science and  
3 Technology Park (HOST Park) located in Kailua-Kona; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the HOST Park is located on lands owned and  
6 operated by the National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
7 (NELHA); and  
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9           WHEREAS, NELHA's current master and strategic plan were  
10 last updated in 2011 and 2012, respectively, necessitating the  
11 need for both plans to be updated; and  
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13           WHEREAS, NELHA's HOST Park represents a clear opportunity  
14 to reassess how renewable energy technologies have advanced and  
15 what roles they can play in the State moving forward; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in a Technical Memorandum prepared by the Pacific  
18 International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR),  
19 PICHTR noted that "the large amount of interest generated in the  
20 State of Hawaii by the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative affords a  
21 great opportunity for NELHA to market itself as a hub for energy  
22 research and commercialization"; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, there are opportunities to explore how to leverage  
25 byproducts of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) based on  
26 renewable energy technologies at HOST Park to further support  
27 other nascent clean energy and clean transportation initiatives;  
28 and  
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30           WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
31 Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has  
32 conducted studies showing the potential benefits of cold water  
33 irrigation in agriculture; and  
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1           WHEREAS, there is growing interest in hydrogen as an energy  
2 source, especially in fuel cells where water is the only  
3 byproduct and renewable hydrogen can be obtained from ammonia  
4 through the OTEC process; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of  
7 Engineering, CTAHR, the Shidler College of Business, the School  
8 of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, and the Office of  
9 Innovation and Commercialization have the expertise necessary to  
10 work with NELHA to develop its next strategic plan focused on  
11 research and commercialization of OTEC and renewable energy;  
12 now, therefore,

13  
14           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
16 that NELHA is requested to work with the University of Hawaii at  
17 Manoa to develop new master and strategic plans; and

18  
19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NELHA's development of new  
20 strategic and master plans is requested to be led by the College  
21 of Engineering, and assisted by CTAHR, the Shidler College of  
22 Business, the School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology, and  
23 the Office of Innovation and Commercialization; and

24  
25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NELHA's new strategic plan is  
26 requested to be grounded in its statutory mission established  
27 pursuant to section 227D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the updated plans are requested  
30 to include the research and pathways towards the  
31 commercialization of renewable energy technologies, including  
32 OTEC, and their byproducts; and

33  
34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NELHA is requested to submit a  
35 report to the Legislature on the progress towards new master and  
36 strategic plans, including identification of new potential  
37 public and private sector partnerships, no later than twenty  
38 days prior to the convening of the Legislative Session of 2025;  
39 and

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41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the



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1 National Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority and President of  
2 the University of Hawaii System, who is requested to then  
3 transmit copies of this Concurrent Resolution to the appropriate  
4 representatives of the College of Engineering, College of  
5 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Shidler College of  
6 Business, School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology, and  
7 Office of Innovation and Commercialization.

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OFFERED BY:

