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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO INVESTIGATE  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS TO POWER WATER PUMPS IN THE  
WAIKOLU TUNNEL OF THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System provides water to  
2 over 2,000 acres of crops at any given time and is the lifeblood  
3 of the Molokai farming community; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, water used in the Molokai Irrigation System is  
6 carried through a five-mile tunnel that runs from Waikolu Valley  
7 on the north side of the island to the south side of the island  
8 where it travels through pipes for five miles into the 1.2-  
9 billion-gallon reservoir below Kualapuu town; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System depends on five  
12 electrical pumps to extract irrigation water from Waikolu Valley  
13 and send it through the Waikolu Tunnel; and  
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15           WHEREAS, only two of the five pumps can be operated at one  
16 time due to exorbitant energy costs; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the electricity rates charged on the island of  
19 Molokai are some of the highest in the nation, and the Molokai  
20 Irrigation System is the single largest user of electricity on  
21 the island; and  
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23           WHEREAS, over 95 percent of the cost of operating the  
24 Molokai Irrigation System is spent on electricity, estimated at  
25 between \$35,000 and \$45,000 per month; and  
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27           WHEREAS, electricity rate increases are being proposed by  
28 Maui Electric Company Ltd., due to the high cost of oil; and



# H.C.R. NO. 261

1 WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System could be more  
 2 efficient if it were to use a combination of alternative energy  
 3 systems and electricity, and decrease the amount of electricity  
 4 that would need to be purchased as a result; and  
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6 WHEREAS, Molokai farmers would stand to increase their  
 7 returns if the Molokai Irrigation System were more efficient and  
 8 water were less costly; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 12 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative  
 13 Reference Bureau is requested to investigate and make  
 14 recommendations on the feasibility, cost-benefits, and other  
 15 issues of using an alternative energy system to power water  
 16 pumps in the Molokai Irrigation System through the Waikolu  
 17 Tunnel; and  
 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
 20 Bureau is requested to submit a written report to the  
 21 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
 22 Regular Session of 2008; and  
 23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the director of the  
 26 Legislative Reference Bureau.  
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 28  
 29

OFFERED BY:

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