
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON CREATING A ONE-STOP PERMIT
SHOP FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Hawaii's dependency on
2 petroleum is the highest in the nation, accounting for
3 approximately ninety per cent of the State's energy needs; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high petroleum dependency makes consumers
6 extremely vulnerable to any disruption of petroleum imports,
7 such as oil embargos, supply disruptions, international market
8 dysfunctions, and many other factors beyond the State's control;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
12 and Tourism has committed to energy objectives toward achieving
13 dependable, efficient, and statewide economic energy systems,
14 increased self-sufficiency, greater energy security, and
15 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and
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17 WHEREAS, Act 272, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, was enacted
18 to recognize the economic, environmental, and fuel diversity
19 benefits of renewable energy resources and the need to encourage
20 the establishment of a market for renewable energy in Hawaii,
21 using the State's renewable energy resources; and
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23 WHEREAS, Act 240, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, was enacted
24 to provide a framework for energy self-sufficiency; and
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26 WHEREAS, the State has committed to meeting a renewable
27 energy standard that requires twenty per cent of electricity
28 sold in Hawaii to be generated from renewable resources by the
29 end of 2020; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State has sought also to encourage private
2 sector development of renewable energy projects; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Integrated Energy Policy Report of 1991
5 found that the "permits and approvals that may be required for
6 the development and siting of energy facilities can take up to
7 seven years for a single project"; and
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9 WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are often complex,
10 large-scale undertakings requiring a number of permits; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes a need to streamline
13 the permit process to provide predictability and to encourage
14 private companies to commit the substantial amounts of capital,
15 time, and effort necessary to develop renewable energy projects;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the State needs to
19 provide further incentives for renewable energy projects, such
20 as grants, tax credits, and other assistance; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that renewable energy
23 projects can provide substantial long-term benefits to the State
24 and that developing renewable energy projects would further
25 state policies of developing indigenous renewable energy
26 resources and decreasing Hawaii's dependency on imported fossil
27 fuels; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to advancing projects
30 that support renewable energy technology and that help meet the
31 State's renewable energy portfolio standards; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that Hawaii's energy
34 situation provides both challenges and opportunities, that the
35 State may bridge these challenges with opportunities to partner
36 with the private sector, that these projects may need special
37 assistance from the State to streamline the permitting process
38 and to provide further incentives toward meeting the State's
39 energy objectives of achieving dependable, efficient, and
40 statewide economic energy systems, increased energy self-
41 sufficiency, greater energy security, and reduction of
42 greenhouse gas emissions; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 3 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
 4 requests the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
 5 Tourism to conduct a study of the feasibility of creating a one-
 6 stop permit shop for renewable energy projects to expedite the
 7 permit process; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 10 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
 11 report with its findings and recommendations, including
 12 suggested legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty
 13 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

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 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
 17 Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development,
 18 and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:

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