

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND TOURISM CONDUCT A STUDY TO CREATE 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 the
6 consumers extremely vulnerable to any oil embargo, supply
7 disruption, international market dysfunction, and many other
8 factors beyond our control; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State Department of Business, Economic
11 Development and Tourism has committed to energy objectives
12 toward achieving dependable, efficient and economical statewide
13 energy systems, increased self-sufficiency, greater energy
14 security and reduction of green house gas emissions; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2001, the Legislature passed and the Governor
17 signed into law, Act 272, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, to
18 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, in 2006, the Legislature passed and the Governor
24 signed into law, Act 240, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, in order
25 to provide a framework for energy self-sufficiency; and
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27 WHEREAS, the State has committed to a renewable energy
28 standard, where twenty per cent of electricity sold will be
29 generated from renewable resources by the end of 2020; and
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31 WHEREAS, the State has sought to encourage private sector
32 development of renewable energy projects; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Integrated Energy Policy Report of
3 1991, found that the permits and approvals required for the
4 development and siting of energy facilities, can take up to
5 seven years for a single project; and

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7 WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are often complex,
8 large-scale undertakings requiring a number of permits; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes a need to streamline
11 the permitting process to provide predictability and to
12 encourage private companies to commit substantial amounts of
13 capital, time, and effort necessary to develop such projects;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that a streamlined and
17 expedited process should not entail the elimination or reduction
18 in environmental protection or public participation in the
19 process; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that in order to
22 achieve an expedited, streamlined process that retains adequate
23 public oversight, entails investing in additional personnel; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that such projects may
26 need further incentives to become established in the State, such
27 as grants, tax credits, and other assistance; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that renewable energy
30 projects can provide substantial and long-term benefits to the
31 State and that development of renewable energy projects would
32 further State policies of developing indigenous renewable energy
33 resources and decreasing Hawaii's dependency on imported fossil
34 fuels; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to advancing projects
37 that support renewable energy technology in order to meet the
38 State's renewable energy portfolio standards; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that Hawaii's energy
41 situation provides both challenges and opportunities, and these
42 challenges can be bridged by opportunities to partner with the
43 private sector; and



1 WHEREAS, special assistance may be required from the State
 2 to streamline the permitting process providing further
 3 incentives toward meeting the State's energy objectives of
 4 achieving dependable, efficient and economical statewide energy
 5 systems, increased energy self-sufficiency, greater energy
 6 security, and reduction of green house gas emissions; now,
 7 therefore,

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 9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
 11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 12 Business, Economic Development and Tourism is requested to
 13 conduct a study on the feasibility of creating a one-stop permit
 14 shop to expedite permit processing for renewable energy projects
 15 and to recommend changes, if any, that are needed to establish
 16 this streamlined permit process; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 19 Economic Development and Tourism is requested to submit its
 20 recommendations and draft legislation, if necessary, to the
 21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 22 the Regular Session of 2008; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted the Director of the
 26 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

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29 OFFERED BY:

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