

FEB 26 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO ANALYZE THE
POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AS THE PRIMARY
ENERGY SOURCE TO MEET THE BASELOAD DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY
ON THE BIG ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, in 1881, King David Kalakaua visited Thomas Edison
2 in New York to discuss extracting power from Hawaii's volcanoes
3 and using underwater cables to carry power between islands; and
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5 WHEREAS, at the time, his strategy did not prove to be
6 feasible, and hydropower was used to generate electricity to
7 light Honolulu; and
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9 WHEREAS, today, technology advances make geothermal energy
10 not only feasible, but a top source of renewable energy; and
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12 WHEREAS, geothermal energy is a more reliable source of
13 energy than solar or wind energy, because when the wind does not
14 blow and the sun does not shine, the heat from the volcano
15 continues to produce a steady flow of power; and
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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's ratio of renewable energy generation (ten
18 per cent) to fossil fuel generation (ninety per cent) ranks
19 third in the nation; and
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21 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has
22 indicated that Hawaii is one of the best positioned states for
23 renewable energy potential; and
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25 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
26 asserts that greenhouse gases threaten public health and science
27 overwhelmingly shows greenhouse gas concentrations are at
28 unprecedented levels due to human activity; and
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1 WHEREAS, there is irrefutable evidence that global warming
2 is real and occurring at an alarming rate, with rising sea
3 levels and stronger and more frequent storms; and
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5 WHEREAS, the designation and establishment of geothermal
6 resource subzones more than twenty-five years ago needs to be
7 reviewed to reaffirm or amend the original feasibility
8 assessments; and
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10 WHEREAS, previous geothermal development has raised
11 sensitive issues regarding the impacts on native Hawaiian
12 cultural and spiritual practices; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii needs a sustainable energy market that
15 strikes a balance between economic, community, and environmental
16 priorities; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative aims to meet
19 seventy per cent of the State's energy needs through renewable
20 sources by 2030; and
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22 WHEREAS, geothermal energy is efficient and stable, and has
23 long-term viability to help Hawaii meet its 2030 goals, reduce
24 its contribution to global warming, and create a sustainable
25 energy market; and
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27 WHEREAS, as a proven source of reliable firm capacity,
28 geothermal energy has great potential to be the primary source
29 of energy to meet the Big Island's baseload demand, generating
30 the amount of power required to meet minimum electricity demands
31 based on reasonable expectations of customer requirements; now,
32 therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the County of Hawaii
37 is requested to establish, convene, and facilitate a working
38 group to analyze the potential development of geothermal energy
39 as the primary energy source to meet the baseload demand for
40 electricity on the Big Island; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of
43 eleven members with the Mayor of Hawaii County designating the
44 chairperson, including:



- (1) The Hawaii County Energy Coordinator, or designee;
- (2) One member designated by Hawaii Electric Light Company;
- (3) One member designated by the Big Island Labor Alliance;
- (4) One member designated by the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Inc.;
- (5) One member designated by the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission;
- (6) The Hawaii Island Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee, or designee;
- (7) One member designated by the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
- (8) One member designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
- (9) One member who is a representative of a non-profit, environmental group to be selected by the President of the Senate;
- (10) One member who is a representative of a cultural organization to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (11) One member representing West Hawaii to be selected by the Mayor of Hawaii County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consider the potential impacts of expanding geothermal energy production on native habitats, pristine forest environments, and native Hawaiian values and practices, and recommend mitigative measures to ameliorate any adverse impacts that may be caused by geothermal energy production expansion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group also consider what improvements may be required for the electricity



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to include a feasibility and cost-benefit analysis of using geothermal energy as the primary energy source to meet baseload demand on the Big Island, including an analysis of community, environmental, and economic benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is further requested to include a detailed accounting of the geothermal royalties collected by the State, the County of Hawaii, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, including how those entities distribute and use the royalties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Mayor of Hawaii County, the Chairperson of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Inc., the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, the President of the Hawaii Electric Light Company, and the President of the Big Island Labor Alliance.

OFFERED BY: