
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE
FEASIBILITY AND THE POTENTIAL MERITS AND BENEFITS OF THE
ENERGY COOPERATIVE MODEL FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is a nonprofit
2 consumer cooperative association that is incorporated pursuant
3 to chapter 421C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the following
4 purposes:

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6 (1) To supply, produce, generate, purchase, market, sell,
7 transmit or distribute, and to promote the use of,
8 electric energy and other forms of energy;

9
10 (2) To provide services relating or incidental to the
11 purposes set forth in paragraph (1); and
12

13 (3) For any other lawful purposes; and
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15 WHEREAS, as a nonprofit consumer cooperative association
16 managed by leaders on the island of Hawaii, Hawaii Island Energy
17 Cooperative is pursuing the potential merits of a cooperative
18 ownership structure for electric utility service on the island
19 of Hawaii; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Act
22 57, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, which states in part that "[a]n
23 electric cooperative . . . is a customer-owned organization
24 operating on a not-for-profit basis under the governance of a
25 board of directors democratically elected by the very same
26 customers who receive the cooperative's services and who act in
27 their role as owners and members of the cooperative"; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative would represent
30 the goals and benefits of this cooperative form of utility



ownership, which include local, democratic control over one of the most critical infrastructures and public institutions on the island of Hawaii; community-based and community-chosen priorities; potentially lower electricity costs by virtue of its nonprofit status; improved and greater overall energy independence and sustainability; and the development of and emphasis on island-produced fuels to provide an energy source for both electric generation and transportation sectors; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative's organizational efforts and its desire to bring the benefits of the cooperative form of ownership to the critical electric utility infrastructure of the island of Hawaii should inspire the State to explore the merits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to assess the feasibility and the potential merits and benefits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission and the President of the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative.

OFFERED BY:

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