
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM AND THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONDUCT A
STUDY TO ESTABLISH INCREMENTAL GOALS TO ACHIEVE ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY FUELED GROUND TRANSPORTATION BY
2045.

1 WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human
2 activities are the most significant driver of observed climate
3 change since the mid-twentieth century; and
4

5 WHEREAS, global oil consumption related to ground
6 transportation is a large contributor to increased levels of
7 carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere; and
8

9 WHEREAS, ground transportation consumes roughly twenty-
10 three percent of all energy consumption in Hawaii; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in 2013, it was reported that 1,300,000 vehicles
13 were registered in Hawaii, while the number of licensed drivers
14 totaled 904,500, highlighting that some residents own more than
15 one vehicle; and
16

17 WHEREAS, petroleum-fueled vehicles do not contain costs for
18 consumers as crude oil prices fluctuate according to global
19 supply, global demand, oil inventory demand, and market
20 speculation; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Hawaii's dependency on imported oil, coupled by
23 the increasing number of vehicle owners, could have adverse
24 effects to the local environment and Hawaii's largest
25 industries, including tourism, agriculture, and recreational and
26 commercial fishing; and
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28 WHEREAS, oil is imported to Hawaii internationally and
29 drains the State's economy of billions of dollars each year; and
30



1 WHEREAS, a stronger local economy depends on a transition
2 away from ground transportation powered by imported oil and
3 toward ground transportation powered by local renewable energy
4 resources, which keeps millions of dollars in the State, creates
5 local jobs, and provides energy security and self-sufficiency;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, scalability of renewable energy will ultimately
9 decrease and contain costs so consumers are not negatively
10 affected by volatile prices; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the United States and one hundred ninety-five
13 countries entered into the Paris Agreement which, within the
14 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, seeks:
15

- 16 (1) A long-term goal to keep the increase in global
17 average temperature to well below two degrees Celsius
18 above pre-industrial levels;
19
- 20 (2) To limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, in order
21 to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of
22 climate change;
23
- 24 (3) To reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as
25 possible, recognizing that this will take longer for
26 developing countries; and
27
- 28 (4) To undertake rapid reductions in GHG emissions
29 thereafter in accordance with the best available
30 science; and
31

32 WHEREAS, Hawaii has shown its commitment to decreasing GHG
33 emissions and increasing renewable energy by adopting the Clean
34 Energy Initiative, becoming the first state to set a goal of
35 increasing its renewable portfolio standards to one hundred
36 percent by 2045; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Hawaii provides an ideal test bed to accelerate
39 the use of renewable energy to fuel ground transportation, which
40 reduces oil usage and GHG emissions; and
41



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1 WHEREAS, achieving one hundred percent renewable energy
 2 fueled ground transportation requires a phased approach to
 3 ensure the State can achieve set benchmarks; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State should provide incentives and
 6 investments for ground transportation projects fueled by
 7 renewable energy; now, therefore,
 8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
 11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 12 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii State
 13 Energy Office are requested to conduct a study to establish
 14 incremental goals to achieve one hundred percent renewable
 15 energy fueled ground transportation by 2045; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include possible
 18 grants, programs, tax credits, and tax exemptions for research
 19 and enterprises related to commercializing renewable energy
 20 fueled ground transportation projects; and
 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 23 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to report its
 24 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 25 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 26 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and
 27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
 29 utilize the report in future programs and budgetary planning;
 30 and
 31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
 34 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Hawaii
 35 Energy Program Administrator.
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 37
 38

Charles M. Nishihara OFFERED BY: *Dan Claitor*

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