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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND CREATE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, renewable energy and agriculture can coexist and  
2 contribute to the State's self-sufficiency, energy security, and  
3 resilience; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the State currently imports fossil fuels and is  
6 highly dependent on foreign imports; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established  
9 the electric renewable portfolio standard of one hundred percent  
10 of net electricity sales by 2045, and the Governor has set a  
11 goal of doubling local food production by 2020; and

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13 WHEREAS, utility-scale solar developments in Hawaii need to  
14 increase to reach the one hundred percent renewable portfolio  
15 standard and be able to provide stable, low-cost energy,  
16 especially for low to moderate income ratepayers and small  
17 businesses; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State has not yet developed a long-term  
20 strategic plan to achieve one hundred percent renewable  
21 electricity to achieve the State's renewable portfolio standard  
22 and policies; and

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24 WHEREAS, renewable energy developments such as utility-  
25 scale solar developments will require thousands of acres of flat  
26 land that are close to major transmission lines to keep  
27 infrastructure costs low; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not yet  
30 developed a strategic plan that incorporates renewable energy



1 development in its plans and policies to increase local food  
2 production; and

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4 WHEREAS, the State has thousands of acres of agricultural  
5 land that is classified by the Land Study Bureau with B, C, D,  
6 and E land-based productivity ratings, but these lands are  
7 fallow and not being utilized for farming; and

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9 WHEREAS, new agricultural technology creates updated  
10 requirements for land use that are not dependent on the  
11 seemingly outdated Land Study Bureau's land-based rating system;  
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Netherlands has embraced new agricultural  
15 technology, shifted away from land-based farming, and utilizes  
16 low cost renewable energy to power greenhouse and vertical  
17 farms, leading the Netherlands to become one of the largest  
18 producers of agricultural exports in the world; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the majority of Hawaii's commercially farmed  
21 produce is grown on lands owned by non-farmers who issue short-  
22 term leases to farmers, who therefore are unable to make the  
23 capital investments necessary to upgrade and modernize Hawaii's  
24 food production; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the State must entertain new alternatives to  
27 current agricultural operations that protect and promote  
28 agriculture in a manner that assures long-term secure access to  
29 land and supports capital investments to increase agricultural  
30 production; and

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32 WHEREAS, there is a nexus between land use for renewable  
33 solar energy developments and growing the State's agricultural  
34 industry; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
37 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State  
38 Energy Office, in collaboration with the Department of  
39 Agriculture, is requested to create and implement a strategic  
40 plan that encompasses increasing renewable energy and local food  
41 production in a symbiotic relationship; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested  
2 to include findings and recommendations related to the  
3 following:

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- 5 (1) Land use policy initiatives;
- 6
- 7 (2) Protected agriculture;
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- 9 (3) Agricultural technology;
- 10
- 11 (4) Necessary recommendations for legislation at the state  
12 and county levels to implement agricultural technology  
13 and energy developments on the same lands;
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- 15 (5) Identification and implementation of mutually-  
16 beneficial relationships between agriculture and  
17 energy; and
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- 19 (6) Identification of potential conflicting relationships  
20 and solutions to those conflicts; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office, in  
23 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, is requested  
24 to create an economic impact report based on the successful  
25 implementation of the strategic plan; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is  
28 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
29 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the  
30 strategic plan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
31 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is  
34 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the  
36 economic impact report, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
37 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the State  
41 Energy Office and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

