HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020 STATE OF HAWAII

## H.C.R. NO. 90

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WHEN REVIEWING THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF HAWAII GAS BY AN EXTERNAL ENTITY.

WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas has been the only franchised gas 1 utility in Hawaii since 1904, serving more than sixty thousand 2 3 customers throughout the State; and 4 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas primarily processes and distributes 5 synthetic natural gas, liquified petroleum gas, and liquefied 6 7 natural gas; and 8 9 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas currently has one renewable natural gas production facility in operation on Oahu that transforms waste 10 11 material from the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant into renewable natural gas, which it blends with gas in its 12 pipelines; and 13 14 WHEREAS, through Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, the 15 State recognized the importance of eliminating fossil fuels, 16 including petroleum- and natural gas-derived products, and 17 transitioning to renewable sources of energy across all sectors, 18 resulting in one hundred percent of Hawaii's electricity coming 19 from renewable sources by 2045; and 20 21 WHEREAS, Hawaii also established a goal of transitioning to 22 a zero-emissions clean and carbon-neutral economy by 2045 23 through Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii of 2018; and 24 25 26 WHEREAS, the State currently has no mandate for a gas 27 utility to uphold the same set of standards established for an electric utility regarding the transition to renewable sources, 28

## H.C.R. NO. 90

1 or to consider the State's commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize the economy; and 2 3 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas recently announced that the company is 4 5 for sale; and 6 7 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that any prospective buyer of Hawaii Gas be committed to accelerating 8 renewable natural gas production, and to exploring all options 9 for lower-carbon alternatives to liquefied natural gas, 10 11 synthetic natural gas, and liquified petroleum gas, and be ready and willing to be an ally in helping Hawaii achieve its 12 clean-energy and decarbonization goals; and 13 14 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas is regulated by the Public Utilities 15 16 Commission, whose role is to protect the public interest by overseeing and regulating public utilities to ensure that they 17 provide reliable service at just and reasonable rates; now, 18 19 therefore, 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 21 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 22 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities 23 24 Commission is requested to protect the public interest when reviewing the potential acquisition of Hawaii Gas by determining 25 whether: 26 27 28 (1)The prospective buyer would serve in the best interests of the State's economy and the communities 29 30 served by Hawaii Gas; 31 The prospective buyer, if approved, provides 32 (2) significant, quantifiable benefits to Hawaii Gas's 33 ratepayers in both the short and the long term; 34 35 The proposed transaction, if approved, will (3) 36 demonstrate a commitment to the transition to 37 38 renewable natural gas; and 39 The prospective buyer is committed to upholding the (4) 40 State policy regarding clean energy and 41



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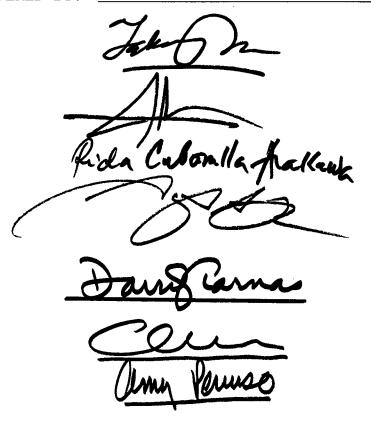
## H.C.R. NO. 90

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decarbonization of the economy, or whether the prospective buyer is likely to try to influence policy in order to benefit ratepayers or the company itself; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this 7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the 8 Public Utilities Commission.

OFFERED BY:



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