HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND UNITED STATES NAVY TO RENEW FUNDING FOR THE KANEOHE WAVE ENERGY TEST SITE.

WHEREAS, wave energy technology uses the surge of the ocean to generate clean, free, and endlessly renewable electrical power; and

WHEREAS, wave energy has the potential to add a unique and consistent resource to Hawaii's renewable energy portfolio, helping to achieve the State's goal of one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the United States Department of Energy and United States Navy selected Hawaii through a competitive process to be one of two Wave Energy Test Sites (WETS) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the wave energy test site in Kaneohe Bay, on the island of Oahu, was designed to test the commercial viability of wave energy devices and to determine whether the technology could successfully supply energy to a power grid; and

WHEREAS, in July 2015, a prototype wave generator called Azura became the first wave technology device to successfully supply grid power, producing twenty kilowatts of clean energy for the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, although research is ongoing, federal funding for the Wave Energy Test Site at Kaneohe Bay is scheduled to expire in 2022; and

WHEREAS, further funding is needed to perfect wave energy technology, develop a permitting process, and support a public-private partnership to grow the industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Legislature recognizes the critical importance of wave energy technology to the State's renewable energy goals and urges the United States Department of Energy and United States Navy to renew their funding of the Kaneohe Wave Energy Test Site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Energy, Secretary of the Navy, and President of the University of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

JAN 1 5 2020