

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO QUANTIFY THE AMOUNT OF LAND NEEDED TO MEET RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS AND THE AMOUNT OF LAND NEEDED TO MEET FOOD SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE SITING CONSIDERATIONS TO MEET BOTH GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, the goal of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative is
2 to achieve one hundred percent renewable energy, as defined by
3 section 269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by 2045; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2016, Governor David Ige committed to doubling
6 the State's food production by 2030; and
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8 WHEREAS, renewable energy projects have been, and continue
9 to be, sited on agricultural lands, including lands with
10 existing agricultural activity, and according to the Aloha+
11 Challenge Benchmark Report, food production in the State has
12 decreased since 2018; and
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14 WHEREAS, Act 233, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, triggered a
15 process to identify, map, and designate important agricultural
16 lands throughout the State, but no similar effort has been done
17 to quantify the required acreage for renewable energy
18 production; and
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20 WHEREAS, a significant amount of agricultural lands are not
21 farmable due to poor soil quality, lava, rocks, or steep slopes
22 and ravines, however much of these lands may be suitable for
23 renewable energy projects; and
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25 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of acres of developed land
26 outside the agricultural district could support more rooftop
27 solar energy projects by increasing capacity at existing
28 locations and maximizing space over parking lots and roadways;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, the State Energy Office has developed two powerful
32 and dynamic data visualization programs: the Hawaii Advanced
33 Visualization Environment Nexus and the Hawaii Energy



1 Visualization Initiative, which can be used by the Office of
2 Planning and the Land Use Commission to support a proactive
3 review of land availability and the need for each of the
4 renewable energy technologies; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
8 that the Office of Planning, in consultation with the State
9 Energy Office, Land Use Commission, planning departments of each
10 county, and electric utility companies, with public input, is
11 requested to quantify the amount of land needed to meet
12 renewable energy goals and to meet food sustainability goals and
13 to make recommendations for future siting considerations to meet
14 both goals; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report should provide the
17 estimated land requirements to meet renewable energy goals and
18 food sustainability goals for each county; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
21 requested to submit a report on its findings and recommendations
22 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
23 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of
27 Planning, Chief Energy Officer of the State Energy Office,
28 Chairperson of the Land Use Commission, Chairperson of the
29 Public Utilities Commission, Director of the Kauai County
30 Planning Department, Director of the Maui County Department of
31 Planning, Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department
32 of Planning and Permitting, Director of the County of Hawaii
33 Planning Department, Chief Executive Officer of Kauai Island
34 Utility Cooperative, Chief Executive Officer of Maui Electric
35 Company, Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Electric Light
36 Company, and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Electric Company.
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OFFERED BY: _____

