
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy has
2 a long-established presence in Hawaii through collaboration
3 among its various offices and national laboratories with state
4 and county agencies, the private sector, and local communities;
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, in 2008, the State and the U.S. Department of
8 Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that
9 established the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) and
10 created a long-term partnership to provide a replicable global
11 model that transforms the way that renewable energy efficiency
12 resources are planned and used through the substantive
13 transformation of the financial, regulatory, legal, and
14 institutional systems that govern energy planning and delivery
15 within the State; and
16

17 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature passed Act 73 to
18 statutorily establish the HCEI program and designate the
19 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
20 (DBEDT) as the lead agency for the HCEI; and
21

22 WHEREAS, in 2014, the State and the U.S. Department of
23 Energy recommitted to the HCEI partnership through an updated
24 MOU to transition from fossil fuel imports in favor of local
25 renewable resources and efficiency to develop "a national model
26 for job creation, industrial transformation, environmental
27 compliance, and technological innovation"; and
28

29 WHEREAS, since recommitting to the partnership, Hawaii has
30 established itself as a global leader on energy policy by being
31 the first state to:
32



- 1 (1) Commit to:
- 2
- 3 (A) Achieving a one hundred percent renewable
- 4 portfolio standard through Act 97, Session Laws
- 5 of Hawaii 2015;
- 6
- 7 (B) Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- 8 consistent with the Paris Agreement through
- 9 Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017; and
- 10
- 11 (C) Achieving net-negative greenhouse gas emissions
- 12 through Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018; and
- 13
- 14 (2) Declare a climate emergency through Senate Concurrent
- 15 Resolution No. 44, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1,
- 16 2021; and
- 17

18 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 122, Session Laws of
19 Hawaii 2019, which created the Hawaii State Energy Office as an
20 independent agency administratively attached to DBEDT and tasked
21 it with the functions and responsibilities for a clean energy
22 economy, including leading the HCEI, and whose Chief Energy
23 Officer is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the
24 Senate; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the HCEI and the State's establishment of the
27 first one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard by 2045
28 was followed by twelve U.S. states adopting similar targets, and
29 the Biden-Harris Administration's national target for a carbon
30 pollution-free electricity sector by 2035 and carbon neutrality
31 economy-wide by 2050; and

32
33 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration
34 established the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government
35 approach to ensure that federal agencies work with states and
36 local communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall
37 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to
38 disadvantaged communities; and

39
40 WHEREAS, with respect to the nation as a whole, Hawaii has
41 a disproportionate number of communities experiencing low-income
42 with high or persistent poverty; high unemployment and



1 underemployment; linguistic isolation; high housing, energy, and
2 transportation cost burdens; disproportionate environmental
3 stressors and impacts from climate change; and other effects
4 comprising disadvantaged communities as considered in the Office
5 of Management and Budget Interim Implementation Guidance for the
6 Justice40 Initiative; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is refocusing the
9 objectives of the HCEI to more expressly incorporate equity and
10 justice in energy policy through initiatives such as the Climate
11 Ready Hawaii VISTA and Clean Energy Wayfinders programs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a member of the Pacific ohana of nations
14 and islands, which also have large numbers of similarly
15 disadvantaged communities and are of strategic importance to the
16 U.S.; and

17
18 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a center for public diplomacy in the
19 Indo-Pacific region and the host to the US Indo-Pacific Command
20 and facilities for each of the six service branches of the
21 Department of Defense; and

22
23 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration
24 established an Indo-Pacific national security strategy that
25 includes an economic framework to encourage innovation,
26 strengthen economic competitiveness, produce good-paying jobs,
27 rebuild supply chains, and expand economic opportunities through
28 investments, such as those in decarbonization and clean energy;
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, the 2022 Indo-Pacific national security strategy
32 seeks to build resiliency by developing 2030 and 2050 targets,
33 strategies, plans, and policies consistent with limiting the
34 global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

35
36 WHEREAS, the interests of the State and the Biden-Harris
37 Administration are aligned to transform Hawaii's energy system
38 to promote clean energy in the State and throughout the Indo-
39 Pacific region; now, therefore,

40
41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



H.C.R. NO. 46

1 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Energy
 2 Office is requested to engage the U.S. Department of Energy to
 3 establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawaii; and
 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Director of
 6 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all
 7 departments and agencies with energy-related duties and
 8 responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy
 9 Officer in this endeavor; and
 10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
 12 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
 13 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 14 2023, on the status of the engagement and the terms of any
 15 proposed agreement; and
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 19 Secretary of Energy; members of the Hawaii congressional
 20 delegation; Governor; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State
 21 Energy Office; and Director of Business, Economic Development,
 22 and Tourism.
 23
 24
 25

OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowen*

MAR - 9 2022

