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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO EXPLORE, THROUGH ITS DOCKET PROCESS, THE FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING ABOVE-GROUND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES AND DISTRIBUTION LINES UNDERGROUND IN HIGH-RISK AREAS ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, above-ground electric transmission lines and  
2 distribution lines exist in high-risk areas on the island of  
3 Maui; and  
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5 WHEREAS, these high-risk areas are areas with reasonably  
6 foreseeable high winds, wildfires, or other natural adverse  
7 events that have historically occurred; and  
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9 WHEREAS, these risks could trigger road closures,  
10 especially roads that provide access to critical infrastructure,  
11 such as hospitals; and  
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13 WHEREAS, one possible solution would be to relocate above-  
14 ground electric transmission lines and distribution lines  
15 underground; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2022, that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to  
20 explore, through its docket process, the feasibility of  
21 relocating above-ground electric transmission lines and  
22 distribution lines underground in high-risk areas on the island  
23 of Maui; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
26 is requested to include in its assessment:  
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- 28 (1) The amortized costs of relocating above-ground  
29 electric transmission and distribution lines  
30 underground;  
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(2) The risk of damage to the above-ground lines from reasonably foreseeable high winds, wildfires, or other natural adverse events that have historically occurred;

(3) The risk of damage to the above-ground and underground lines from projected sea level rise in the area where lines are located; and

(4) The risk posed to the surrounding area from damage to the above-ground lines, including but not limited to:

(A) The potential for igniting wildfires; and

(B) Road closures, especially roads that provide access to critical infrastructure, such as hospitals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023 regarding its assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if relocating above-ground electric transmission lines and distribution lines underground in high-risk areas on the island of Maui is deemed feasible, the Public Utilities Commission is requested to include proposed plans and associated deadlines for this relocation in its report to the Legislature; and

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

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

