
HOUSE 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
33 (1) Commit to:
34



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

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

22
 23 WHEREAS, the HCEI and the State's establishment of the
 24 first one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard by 2045
 25 was followed by twelve U.S. states adopting similar targets, and
 26 the Biden-Harris Administration's national target for a carbon
 27 pollution-free electricity sector by 2035 and carbon neutrality
 28 economy-wide by 2050; and

29
 30 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration
 31 established the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government
 32 approach to ensure that federal agencies work with states and
 33 local communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall
 34 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to
 35 disadvantaged communities; and

36
 37 WHEREAS, with respect to the nation as a whole, Hawaii has
 38 a disproportionate number of communities experiencing low-income
 39 with high or persistent poverty; high unemployment and
 40 underemployment; linguistic isolation; high housing, energy, and
 41 transportation cost burdens; disproportionate environmental
 42 stressors and impacts from climate change; and other effects



1 comprising disadvantaged communities as considered in the Office
2 of Management and Budget Interim Implementation Guidance for the
3 Justice40 Initiative; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is refocusing the
6 objectives of the HCEI to more expressly incorporate equity and
7 justice in energy policy through initiatives such as the Climate
8 Ready Hawaii VISTA and Clean Energy Wayfinders programs; and

9
10 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a member of the Pacific ohana of nations
11 and islands, which also have large numbers of similarly
12 disadvantaged communities and are of strategic importance to the
13 U.S.; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a center for public diplomacy in the
16 Indo-Pacific region and the host to the US Indo-Pacific Command
17 and facilities for each of the six service branches of the
18 Department of Defense; and

19
20 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration
21 established an Indo-Pacific national security strategy that
22 includes an economic framework to encourage innovation,
23 strengthen economic competitiveness, produce good-paying jobs,
24 rebuild supply chains, and expand economic opportunities through
25 investments, such as those in decarbonization and clean energy;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, the 2022 Indo-Pacific national security strategy
29 seeks to build resiliency by developing 2030 and 2050 targets,
30 strategies, plans, and policies consistent with limiting the
31 global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the interests of the State and the Biden-Harris
34 Administration are aligned to transform Hawaii's energy system
35 to promote clean energy in the State and throughout the Indo-
36 Pacific region; now, therefore,

37
38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2022, that the Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to
41 engage the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a permanent
42 presence within the State of Hawaii; and



H.R. NO. 41

1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Director of
3 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all
4 departments and agencies with energy-related duties and
5 responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy
6 Officer in this endeavor; and
7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
9 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
11 2023, on the status of the engagement and the terms of any
12 proposed agreement; and
13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
16 Energy; members of the Hawaii congressional delegation;
17 Governor; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy
18 Office; and Director of Business, Economic Development, and
19 Tourism.
20
21
22

OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowen*

MAR - 9 2022