
SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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:



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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, with respect to the nation as a whole, Hawaii has a disproportionate number of communities experiencing low-income



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

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

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

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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a center for public diplomacy in the
21 Indo-Pacific region and the host to the U.S. Indo-Pacific
22 Command and facilities for each of the six service branches of
23 the Department of Defense; and

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

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

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



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State
4 Energy Office is requested to engage the U.S. Department of
5 Energy to establish a permanent presence within the State of
6 Hawaii; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor; Director of
9 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and the departments
10 and agencies with energy-related duties and responsibilities,
11 are requested to support the Chief Energy Officer in this
12 endeavor; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
15 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
17 2023, on the status of the engagement and the terms of any
18 proposed agreement; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
22 Secretary of Energy; members of the Hawaii congressional
23 delegation; Governor; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State
24 Energy Office; and Director of Business, Economic Development,
25 and Tourism.

