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# SENATE 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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33 (1) Commit to:



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

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

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

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

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



1 transportation cost burdens; disproportionate environmental  
2 stressors and impacts from climate change; and other effects  
3 comprising disadvantaged communities as considered in the Office  
4 of Management and Budget's Interim Implementation Guidance for  
5 the Justice40 Initiative; and

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,



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

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

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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

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

