
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INTEGRATED HAWAII PACIFIC HYDROGEN HUB.

1 WHEREAS, in 2008, the State and United States Department of
2 Energy established the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to create
3 a long-term partnership that will result in a fundamental and
4 sustained transformation of Hawaii's energy system in a way that
5 is a replicable global model; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 2014, the State and United States Department of
8 Energy recommitted to the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative
9 partnership through an updated Memorandum of Understanding to
10 transition from fossil fuel imports in favor of local renewable
11 resources and efficiency to develop "a national model for job
12 creation, industrial transformation, environmental compliance,
13 and technological innovation"; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii has established itself as a global leader
16 on energy policy by being the first state in the nation to adopt
17 a legally binding commitment to achieve a one hundred percent
18 renewable portfolio standard and to declare a climate emergency,
19 as well as commit to mitigate and adapt to climate change
20 consistent with the Paris Agreement and achieve net-negative
21 greenhouse gas emissions; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and the State's
24 establishment of a one hundred percent renewable portfolio
25 standard by 2045 was followed by twelve other states that
26 adopted similar targets; and
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28 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Legislature created the Hawaii State
29 Energy Office as an independent agency, administratively
30 attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development,
31 and Tourism, to be the State's primary government entity for
32 supporting the clean energy initiative; and
33



1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is led by the Chief
2 Energy Officer who, subject to the approval of the Governor,
3 coordinates the State's energy programs with those of the
4 federal government, other territory and state governments,
5 political subdivisions of the State, departments of the State,
6 and governments of nations with interest in common energy
7 resources; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Chief Energy Officer also identifies market
10 gaps and innovation opportunities, collaborates with
11 stakeholders, and facilitates public-private partnerships to
12 develop projects, programs, and tools to encourage private and
13 public exploration, research, and development of energy
14 resources, distributed energy resources, and data analytics that
15 will support the State's energy and decarbonization goals; and
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17 WHEREAS, Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, established
18 a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at
19 least fifty percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and requires the
20 Hawaii State Energy Office to determine Hawaii's pathway to
21 decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and
22 action that will be needed to achieve those goals; and
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24 WHEREAS, the State has committed to a just transition
25 toward a decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
26 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a climate
27 emergency mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis,
28 which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from
29 state authorities, will transform the economy; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Biden-Harris Administration has established
32 the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government approach to
33 ensure that federal agencies work with states and local
34 communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall
35 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to
36 disadvantaged communities; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
39 includes up to \$7,000,000,000 to establish six to ten regional
40 clean hydrogen hubs across the United States to be a central
41 driver in helping communities benefit from clean energy
42 investments, good-paying jobs, and improved energy security; and



1
2 WHEREAS, clean hydrogen hubs will create networks of
3 hydrogen producers, consumers, and local connective
4 infrastructure to accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean
5 energy carrier that can deliver or store significant amounts of
6 energy as a valuable complement to the portfolio of renewable
7 solutions that are crucial to Hawaii's strategy for achieving
8 its clean energy and decarbonization objectives; and
9

10 WHEREAS, hydrogen energy has potential to serve as a source
11 of clean, firm, dispatchable power and a method of energy
12 storage, offering another pathway for decarbonization of the
13 industrial sector and enabling energy security for critical
14 infrastructure; and
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16 WHEREAS, hydrogen is a chemical energy storage technology
17 and energy carrier that can be produced locally and can be used
18 to increase resilience and serve critical facilities, including
19 resilience hubs and other emergency preparedness and recovery
20 facilities; and
21

22 WHEREAS, hydrogen can serve as an alternative fuel with low
23 to zero direct emissions that can achieve emission reductions in
24 the hard-to-abate, or hard-to-decarbonize, energy sectors,
25 including aviation, maritime, and heavy-duty vehicles; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Inflation Reduction Act provides additional
28 policies and incentives for hydrogen, including a production tax
29 credit that will further boost the United States market for
30 clean hydrogen; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office and its consortium
33 of private-public sector partners' concept paper for an
34 integrated Hawaii Pacific Hydrogen Hub was one of thirty-three
35 concept papers to be encouraged by the United States Department
36 of Energy to proceed to a full application for the United States
37 Department of Energy Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs funding
38 opportunity; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is leading the
41 consortium to submit the full application to establish a Hawaii
42 Pacific Hydrogen Hub to provide economic vitality, better



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1 quality of life, and greater energy security for the people of
2 Hawaii and the Pacific region through the local production,
3 processing, transport, storage, and use of clean hydrogen; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2023, that this body supports the Hawaii State Energy
9 Office in the establishment of an integrated Hawaii Pacific
10 Hydrogen Hub; and

11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor; Director of
13 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and all departments
14 and agencies with energy-related duties and responsibilities
15 support the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy
16 Office in this endeavor; and

17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
19 is requested to update the Legislature annually, no later than
20 twenty days before the convening of each Regular Session, on the
21 status of the engagement and the terms of any proposed
22 agreement; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
26 Energy; members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation; Governor;
27 Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office; and
28 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowen*

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