

MAR 09 2023

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE, AND THE COUNTIES TO ALLOW SOLAR FARMS TO ELEVATE SOLAR PANELS TO CREATE HOUSING UNITS BENEATH THEM TO HELP ADDRESS THE HOMELESS CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of the most  
2 significant and persistent social problems in the State; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in 2022, according to the Hawaii Statewide Point  
5 in Time Count:

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7 (1) There were over five thousand nine hundred homeless  
8 individuals in the State;

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10 (2) There were nearly four thousand homeless individuals  
11 on the island of Oahu; and  
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13 (3) Sixty percent of the homeless individuals on Oahu were  
14 unsheltered; and  
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16 WHEREAS, addressing homelessness is a complex task that  
17 requires continuous resources and coordinated efforts at all  
18 levels, housing first programs have proven to be effective in  
19 helping to address homelessness; and  
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21 WHEREAS, as one example, the Cedar Church is helping  
22 homeless persons through the Cedar Farm Project by providing  
23 tiny homes to homeless persons on a four-acre farm in Waianae;  
24 and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Cedar Farm Project and other similar efforts  
27 to help homeless individuals, such as housing first programs,  
28 would benefit by being able to provide solar power options for  
29 tiny homes housing and rehabilitating homeless persons and low-  
30 income residents to be sustainable on their own; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 5B

1           WHEREAS, opposition to solar farms is often tied to  
2 conflicting needs for low-income housing; and

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4           WHEREAS, encouraging solar farms to elevate solar panels to  
5 allow for low-income housing units could achieve a favorable  
6 compromise; and

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8           WHEREAS, the State's farmers and low-income residents could  
9 mutually benefit from having access to low-income farm worker  
10 housing and solar power options that by decreasing energy costs  
11 would promote self-sufficiency; now, therefore,

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13           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities  
16 Commission, Hawaii State Energy Office, and the counties are  
17 urged to allow solar farms to elevate solar panels to create  
18 housing units beneath them to help address the homeless crisis;  
19 and

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21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's  
23 Coordinator on Homelessness, Chair of the Public Utilities  
24 Commission, Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy  
25 Office, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Chairperson of  
26 the Maui County Council, Chairperson of the Kauai County  
27 Council, and Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

