

MAR 09 2023

SENATE 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
12

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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32 WHEREAS, opposition to solar farms is often tied to
33 conflicting needs for low-income housing; and
34



S.R. NO. 52


1 WHEREAS, encouraging solar farms to elevate solar panels to
 2 allow for low-income housing units could achieve a favorable
 3 compromise; and

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

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

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's Coordinator on
 19 Homelessness, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, Chief
 20 Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office, Chairperson of
 21 the Honolulu City Council, Chairperson of the Maui County
 22 Council, Chairperson of the Kauai County Council, and
 23 Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council.

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OFFERED BY:  _____

