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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ORDER HAWAIIAN  
ELECTRIC TO CONTINUE TO DEPLOY AND PURSUE COMMUNITY-BASED  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

1           WHEREAS, section 269-27.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 requires each electric utility to file a proposed community-  
3 based renewable energy tariff or tariffs with the Public  
4 Utilities Commission by October 1, 2015, and establish a  
5 community-based renewable energy tariff or tariffs, provided  
6 that the tariff or tariffs are found to be in the public  
7 interest; and

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9           WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects are  
10 allowed to utilize public utilities' transmission infrastructure  
11 to provide energy to subscribers that may live in a different  
12 area from where the renewable energy is being produced; and

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14           WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects allow  
15 those who are unable to install solar energy systems because of  
16 cost restraints, because they do not own their residence, or  
17 because they reside in condominiums or other properties that  
18 cannot accommodate the systems; and

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20           WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy, or "shared  
21 solar", can help the State decrease its reliance on fossil fuels  
22 and move toward energy independence and make the transition to  
23 renewable energy more equitable regardless of income; and

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25           WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects can also  
26 allow subscribers to lower their electric bills without making  
27 large, upfront investments of financial resources and can  
28 benefit underserved groups, specifically seniors and low- to  
29 moderate- income families; and

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1           WHEREAS, approximately five community-based renewable  
2 energy projects have been installed since 2015, and thirteen  
3 community-based renewable energy projects in Phase 2, Tranche 1  
4 were to be installed from 2024 to 2026; and

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6           WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Public Utilities Commission  
7 directed Hawaiian Electric to provide a status update regarding  
8 the impact of the Maui wildfires on its Community-Based  
9 Renewable Energy Program; and

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11           WHEREAS, in the status update, Hawaiian Electric notes that  
12 although the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program was not  
13 directly impacted by the Maui wildfires, the customer management  
14 aspect of the Program requires additional time to develop after  
15 commercial operations in order to draw and apply lessons from it  
16 to Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Program, which would establish  
17 additional community-based renewable energy projects; Hawaiian  
18 Electric therefore recommends that Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the  
19 Program be paused, deprioritized, and delayed to allow for  
20 completion of existing projects to commercial operation and to  
21 continue to identify and evaluate lessons learned from Phase 1  
22 and Phase 2, Tranche 1 of the Program; and

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24           WHEREAS, this body believes that Hawaiian Electric has had  
25 more than eight years to prepare for the implementation of its  
26 Community-Based Renewable Energy Program, has taken best  
27 practices for implementation from numerous other states, and  
28 does not require any additional time to continue deployment of  
29 shared solar to those communities in great need; now, therefore,

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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
33 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Public  
34 Utilities Commission is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to  
35 continue the deployment of community-based renewable energy  
36 projects through Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Community-Based  
37 Renewable Energy Program; and

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39           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
40 is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to revoke the suspension  
41 of procurement and continue to issue requests for proposals for  
42 the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program; and



# H.C.R. NO. 120

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
Public Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive  
Officer of Hawaiian Electric.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2024

