S.R. NO. 135

MAR 0 8 2024

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO RESPOND TO HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC'S REQUEST TO SUSPEND, DEPRIORITIZE, AND DELAY THE COMMENCEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS THROUGH PHASE 2, TRANCHE 2 OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM AND ORDER HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC TO CONTINUE TO DEPLOY AND PURSUE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BASED UPON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S FINDINGS.

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

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 13

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

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 24

WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects can also allow subscribers to lower their electric bills without making large, upfront investments of financial resources and can benefit underserved groups, specifically seniors and low- to moderate-income families; and 30

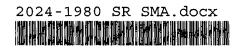


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WHEREAS, approximately five community-based renewable 1 2 energy projects have been installed since 2015, and thirteen community-based renewable energy projects in Phase 2, Tranche 1 3 were to be installed from 2024 to 2026; and 4 5 WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Public Utilities Commission 6 directed Hawaiian Electric to provide a status update regarding 7 8 the impact of the August 2023 Maui wildfires on its Community-9 Based Renewable Energy Program; and 10 WHEREAS, in the November 15, 2023 status update, Hawaiian 11 Electric notes that although the Community-Based Renewable 12 Energy Program was not directly impacted by the August 2023 Maui 13 wildfires, the customer management aspect of the Program 14 requires additional time to develop after commercial operations 15 16 in order to draw and apply lessons from it to Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Program, which would establish additional community-based 17 renewable energy projects; Hawaiian Electric therefore 18 recommends that Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Program be paused, 19 deprioritized, and delayed to allow for completion of existing 20 21 projects to commercial operation and to continue to identify and 22 evaluate lessons learned from Phase 1 and Phase 2, Tranche 1 of the Program; and 23 24 25 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has not yet responded to Hawaiian Electric's recommendation as set forth in 26 27 its November 15, 2023 update; and 28 29 WHEREAS, this body believes that Hawaiian Electric has had more than eight years to prepare for the implementation of its 30 Community-Based Renewable Energy Program, has taken best 31 practices for implementation from numerous other states, and 32 does not require any additional time to continue deployment of 33 shared solar to those communities in great need; now, therefore, 34 35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second 36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, 37 that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to respond to 38 Hawaiian Electric's request to suspend, deprioritize, and delay 39 the commencement of community-based renewable energy projects 40 41 through Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Community-Based Renewable 42 Energy Program; and



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1 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to issue informational requests to Hawaiian 3 4 Electric for further details and clarification as to the 5 specific reasons and timing for its request to suspend, deprioritize, and delay this important program that can help 6 communities that need it the most; and 7 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission 9 is requested to issue informational requests to Hawaiian 10 Electric to determine a reasonable date for recommencing the 11 continued procurement of community-based renewable energy 12 13 projects; and 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission 15 16 is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to continue the deployment of community-based renewable energy projects through 17 Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Community-Based Renewable Energy 18 Program based upon the Public Utilities Commission's 19 determination of a reasonable date; and 20 21 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to revoke the suspension 23 24 of procurement and continue to issue requests for proposals for 25 the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program based upon its 26 findings; and 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 28 29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive Officer 30 31 of Hawaiian Electric. 32 33 34 OFFERED BY:

