
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY
EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A GREEN BONDS
PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, in 2021, the State became the first in the nation
2 to declare a climate emergency, recognizing climate change as an
3 urgent matter of public concern; and
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5 WHEREAS, that same year, state lawmakers passed Act 178,
6 Session Laws of Hawaii, 2021, which directed the State's
7 agencies to collaborate in identifying state facilities that are
8 vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding, and other natural
9 hazards; and
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11 WHEREAS, mitigating and adapting to climate change will
12 require additional public resources; and
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14 WHEREAS, some states, including California, have begun to
15 explore the use of green bonds as a means of financing projects
16 and programs related to the advancement of climate change
17 initiatives, clean energy, conservation goals; and
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19 WHEREAS, green bonds are specifically designed to support
20 sustainable and socially responsible projects, including
21 investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean
22 transportation, waste management, natural resource conservation,
23 water system preservation, marine ecosystem restoration, and
24 green infrastructure; and
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26 WHEREAS, the International Capital Market Association has
27 developed green bond principles, which have been updated as
28 recently as 2021, that promote integrity and transparency in the
29 development and deployment of green bond programs; and
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31 WHEREAS, the green bond principles recommend a clear
32 process and disclosure for issuers, which investors, banks,
33 underwriters, arrangers, placement agents, and others may use to
34 understand the characteristics of any given green bond; and
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1 WHEREAS, the green bond principles emphasize the required
2 transparency, accuracy, and integrity of the information that
3 will be disclosed and reported by issuers to stakeholders
4 through core components and key recommendations; and
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6 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2025, the Governor signed an
7 executive order to promote and expedite the development of
8 renewable energy across the State; and
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10 WHEREAS, the executive order accelerates renewable
11 development for neighbor island communities to achieve one
12 hundred percent renewable energy portfolio standards from 2045
13 to 2035, sets a statewide goal of fifty thousand distributed
14 renewable energy installation by 2030, and directs state
15 departments to streamline the permitting of renewable
16 developments to reduce energy costs; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2025, that the Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to
21 conduct a study evaluating the feasibility of establishing a
22 green bonds program in the State; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the study the Hawaii State
25 Energy Office is requested to evaluate:
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- 27 (1) Best practices for managing green bonds program;
- 28
- 29 (2) Clean energy initiatives that may benefit from funding
30 generated through a green bonds program; and
31
- 32 (3) Opportunities for developing interagency and
33 public-private sector partnerships in establishing a
34 green bonds program; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
37 is requested to submit the study and report its findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
40 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chief Energy
3 Officer.
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6

OFFERED BY: _____

Amy Penzo

MAR 07 2025

