
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A VIABILITY STUDY
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, nuclear energy offers a safe and highly efficient
2 alternative to fossil fuels and provides a sustainable solution
3 for meeting growing energy demands while reducing environmental
4 impact; and

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6 WHEREAS, nuclear power programs have been rapidly developed
7 and expanded throughout Europe, Asia, and in many areas within
8 the continental United States to generate affordable renewable
9 energy; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States has ninety-four commercial
12 nuclear reactors and ninety-nine naval nuclear reactors that
13 generate firm clean power that support the economy and national
14 security; and

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16 WHEREAS, a Pew Research Center survey from May 2024 shows
17 that fifty-six percent of adults in the United States are in
18 favor of developing nuclear power plants to generate affordable
19 electricity; and

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21 WHEREAS, the electricity rates in Hawaii are more than one
22 hundred percent higher than the national average; and

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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii remains dependent on imported fossil fuels
25 for more than eighty percent of its energy generation despite
26 having renewable energy sources that contribute to the State's
27 electric grids; and

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29 WHEREAS, solar and wind energy sources operate on large
30 areas of land and have adverse effects on the surrounding
31 environment and communities; and

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1 WHEREAS, the development of Small Modular Reactors, which
2 are nuclear fission reactors that have up to three hundred
3 megawatts of electric capacity per unit, or about one-third of
4 the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors,
5 has progressed to a point where these reactors can operate
6 safely near or within populated areas without concern; and
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8 WHEREAS, there are no operating nuclear reactors or fuel
9 cycle facilities in Hawaii except for those that are operated by
10 the federal government at Pearl Harbor; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is in need of affordable and reliable firm
13 power to support its communities, industries, and economy; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2025, that this body requests the University of Hawaii to
19 conduct a study of the viability of nuclear energy development
20 in Hawaii to support and create a reliable, safe, and economical
21 renewable energy source; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study is requested to
24 investigate the cost, safety, and utility of nuclear energy
25 development in Hawaii; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
28 requested to submit a report of its findings on the viability of
29 nuclear energy development in Hawaii and recommendations,
30 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature, as well
31 as the United States Secretary of Energy, United States
32 Secretary of Commerce, United States Secretary of Defense,
33 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Mayor of
34 the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Maui,
35 Mayor of the County of Kauai, and Mayor of the County of Hawaii,
36 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
37 Session of 2027; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that adoption of this Resolution by
40 either house of the Legislature does not constitute approval
41 required under article XI, section 8, of the Hawaii State



1 Constitution to construct a nuclear fission power plant or
2 dispose of radioactive material in the State; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
6 Energy, United States Secretary of Commerce, United States
7 Secretary of Defense, members of Hawaii's congressional
8 delegation, Governor, President of the University of Hawaii
9 System, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the
10 County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Kauai, and Mayor of the
11 County of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: 

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