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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A NUCLEAR ENERGY WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF USING ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGIES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the United States is the world's largest producer  
2 of nuclear power, and according to statistics from the United  
3 States Department of Energy, nearly one-fifth of the nation's  
4 electricity comes from nuclear power; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2023, domestic nuclear power plants generated  
7 seven hundred seventy-five billion kilowatt hours of  
8 electricity, enough to power over seventy-two million homes, and  
9 in the same year, nuclear energy also provided forty-eight  
10 percent of carbon-free electricity in the United States; and

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12 WHEREAS, nuclear energy can provide a source of firm and  
13 reliable power that can replace imported fossil fuels; and

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15 WHEREAS, nuclear energy is one of the most reliable energy  
16 sources in the nation, with plants designed to run twenty-four  
17 hours a day, seven days a week, and requiring less maintenance  
18 to operate for longer stretches; and

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20 WHEREAS, as Hawaii progresses towards achieving its 2045  
21 renewable energy goals, it is important to consider the  
22 feasibility of all energy options so that the State can  
23 determine if these energy sources should be pursued or not, and  
24 focus efforts accordingly; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution contains a provision  
27 that no nuclear fission power plant shall be constructed or  
28 radioactive material disposed of in the State without prior  
29 approval by a two-thirds vote in each house of the Legislature;  
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WHEREAS, nuclear energy is not currently included in the definition of renewable energy in section 269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to convene a Nuclear Energy Working Group to study the feasibility of using advanced nuclear power technologies in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to consist of the following members:

- (1) The Chief Energy Officer, or the Chief Energy Officer's designee, who is requested to serve as chair of the working group;
- (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (4) The Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees with primary subject matter purview over energy, or the Chairs' designees;
- (5) A representative from the Public Utilities Commission, to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; and
- (6) A representative from the University of Hawaii with expertise in nuclear energy, to be appointed by the President of the University of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the working group is requested to invite the following individuals to serve as members of the working group:

- (1) A representative from the United States Navy with expertise in nuclear energy;

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- (2) A representative from a public utility that provides energy;
- (3) A representative with expertise in nuclear energy generation or nuclear waste disposal; and
- (4) A representative from an environmental organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to:

- (1) Study the feasibility of using advanced nuclear power technologies in the State;
- (2) Evaluate the benefits, risks, and barriers to developing and using advanced nuclear power technologies in the State, including regulatory, statutory, financial, social, and environmental factors; and
- (3) Identify potential short-term and long-term nuclear energy goals for the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to submit an interim report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026 and a final report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief of Naval Operations of the United States Navy; Governor; Chief Energy Officer; Director of Health; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; and President of the University of Hawaii.

