

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A COMMITMENT TO A NUCLEAR-FREE, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a constitutional ban on nuclear power.
2 Hawaii's constitution explicitly prohibits nuclear fission power
3 plants without legislative approval (Article XI, Section 8).
4 This critical provision protects the health and safety of
5 Hawaii's residents and reflects long-standing public opposition
6 to nuclear energy; and
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8 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has already enacted
9 ordinances banning nuclear energy, signifying the community's
10 dedication to safer, cleaner alternatives; and
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12 WHEREAS, transporting nuclear fuel is a hazard. As an
13 isolated island chain, Hawaii faces unique and significant risks
14 in transporting nuclear fuel over vast ocean distances. Any
15 accidents during transport could have catastrophic consequences
16 for Hawaii's pristine marine environment and tourism-dependent
17 economy; and
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19 WHEREAS, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
20 (NRC), the emergency planning zone around a nuclear power plant
21 typically extends to a 10-mile radius for immediate radiation
22 exposure concerns, while a broader "ingestion pathway" zone
23 reaches out to a 50-mile radius where food and water
24 contamination could occur in the event of an incident. This
25 would make safely siting a power plant, particularly on Oahu,
26 impossible; and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geological instability, including
29 frequent earthquakes, volcanic activity, and tsunami risks,
30 makes it an unsafe location for storing nuclear waste. There are
31 no viable long-term solutions for safely containing radioactive
32 materials in such a volatile environment. Moreover, a nuclear
33 waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste must
34 be, according to scientists, maintained and funded for at least
35 200,000 years; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the cost of nuclear disasters is immense and
3 multifaceted, encompassing direct costs like cleanup operations,
4 property damage, and evacuation efforts, as well as significant
5 indirect costs including long-term health consequences, economic
6 disruption due to lost productivity and tourism, and severe
7 psychological impacts on affected populations, often lasting for
8 generations. We must look no further than major events like
9 Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and Fukushima to understand the
10 vast scale of these costs, with estimates reaching hundreds of
11 billions of dollars due to the complexity of managing
12 radioactive contamination and the social repercussions of such
13 disasters; and
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15 WHEREAS, Integral Fast Reactors, Pebble Bed Modular
16 Reactors, Thorium Fueled Reactors, Molten Salt Reactors, and
17 Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are not viable. Proponents of
18 SMRs and these other so called "new" types of reactors fail to
19 address their unproven nature, unresolved safety risks, and
20 economic inefficiency. Cost estimates to build them have been
21 described as "eye-popping." Moreover, these technologies remain
22 largely theoretical and lack adequate testing. Waiting for such
23 reactors to materialize would forestall much faster and cheaper
24 climate solutions. Additionally, the push for SMRs often serves
25 the private interests of billionaires looking to power AI data
26 centers rather than benefiting the people of Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office has already
29 indicated nuclear energy would be an expensive form of energy
30 for Hawaii, and therefore, would be a distraction from Hawaii
31 achieving our clean energy goals; and
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33 WHEREAS, the nuclear industry touting nuclear energy as
34 "carbon-free electricity" is factually inaccurate. Even
35 existing reactors emit greenhouse gas emissions due to the
36 continuous mining and refining of uranium needed for the
37 reactor; and
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39 WHEREAS, Hawaii is already on the path to achieving 100%
40 renewable energy by 2045 through Act 97 (2015). Nuclear energy
41 is not renewable, requires costly infrastructure, and pursuing



1 it would divert attention and resources from proven, sustainable
2 solutions like solar, and wind; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
6 that this body commits to uphold Hawai'i's constitution, a
7 sustainable future, prioritize investing our resources in a
8 clean renewable energy future, and honor the voices of its
9 people by opposing the use of nuclear energy in Hawaii; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to Governor; Attorney General;
13 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director
14 of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and County of
15 Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

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18 OFFERED BY:



