
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO EXPLORE AND PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO COLOCATE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING PROJECTS WITH AGRICULTURAL RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has established ambitious
2 clean energy goals, committing the State to achieving one
3 hundred percent renewable electricity by 2045 in order to reduce
4 dependence on imported fossil fuels, increase energy security,
5 and mitigate climate change; and

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7 WHEREAS, agricultural reservoirs and irrigation systems
8 across Hawaii represent underutilized infrastructure assets that
9 could support innovative renewable energy generation
10 technologies while continuing to serve essential water
11 management functions; and

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13 WHEREAS, renewable energy technologies that can be
14 colocated with water infrastructure include floating solar
15 photovoltaic systems and gravity-powered water energy generation
16 technologies that produce electricity from the movement of water
17 through pipes, canals, and irrigation systems without requiring
18 dams or major alterations to existing infrastructure; and

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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii possesses an extensive network of
21 agricultural reservoirs, irrigation ditches, pipelines, and
22 gravity-fed water delivery systems originally developed to
23 support plantation agriculture and now used to support
24 diversified farming across the islands, which creates
25 opportunities to integrate renewable energy technologies without
26 interfering with irrigation operations; and

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28 WHEREAS, collocating renewable energy systems with
29 agricultural water infrastructure can provide multiple benefits



1 by generating clean electricity, reducing water evaporation from
2 reservoirs, reducing algae growth, improving water quality,
3 improving water management efficiency, preserving valuable
4 agricultural lands for food production, and lowering energy
5 costs associated with water delivery and pumping; and
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7 WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects enable
8 residents, farmers, and local businesses to participate directly
9 in the benefits of renewable energy generation, including lower
10 energy costs, local ownership opportunities, and increased
11 economic development in rural communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, numerous community-led initiatives and local
14 organizations across Hawaii are actively working to develop
15 community-scale renewable energy projects, which demonstrates
16 strong public interest in locally controlled clean energy
17 solutions that benefit farmers, residents, and communities; and
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19 WHEREAS, successful examples of renewable energy generation
20 colocated on water infrastructure already exist in the United
21 States, including floating solar photovoltaic installations on
22 reservoirs and water treatment facilities that generate clean
23 electricity while conserving water resources; and
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25 WHEREAS, a study released by the National Renewable Energy
26 Laboratory found significant potential for floating solar
27 photovoltaic systems on reservoirs in the United States; and
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29 WHEREAS, the study determined that reservoirs across the
30 United States could host enough floating solar panels to
31 generate up to 1,476 hours of electricity, which means that
32 there are substantial opportunities to integrate renewable
33 energy generation with existing water infrastructure; and
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35 WHEREAS, gravity-powered in-pipe hydropower systems capture
36 energy from the natural movement of water through pipelines,
37 canals, and irrigation systems by installing turbines within
38 existing water conveyance infrastructure, which allows
39 electricity to be generated without dams or disruption to water
40 delivery; now, therefore,
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H.C.R. NO. 180

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Department of
 4 Agriculture and Biosecurity is urged to explore and pursue
 5 opportunities to colocate community-based renewable energy
 6 generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation
 7 water infrastructure throughout the State; and

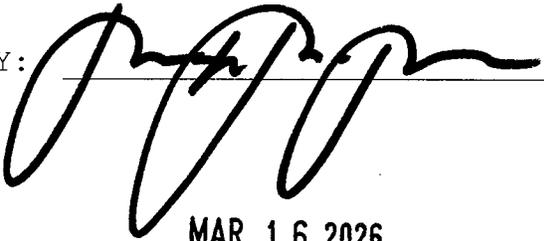
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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is encouraged to
 10 collaborate with farmers, community organizations, electric
 11 utilities, renewable energy developers, and other relevant
 12 stakeholders to identify suitable sites for floating solar and
 13 gravity-powered water energy projects; and

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 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is encouraged to
 16 support feasibility studies, pilot projects, and demonstration
 17 projects that evaluate the technical, economic, and
 18 environmental potential of renewable energy systems integrated
 19 with agricultural water infrastructure; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these projects should
 22 prioritize community-based renewable energy participation
 23 opportunities and ensure that the benefits of renewable energy
 24 generation are intended to meaningfully benefit local
 25 communities; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
 29 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity,
 30 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, and Chief Energy
 31 Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office.

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OFFERED BY: 
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