
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has long relied on imported fossil fuels
2 for most of its energy needs, exposing residents and businesses
3 to volatile global fuel markets and contributing to some of the
4 highest electricity costs in the nation; and

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6 WHEREAS, transitioning to locally available renewable
7 energy resources offers an opportunity to reduce long-term
8 energy costs, strengthen energy independence, improve
9 resilience, and keep more energy dollars circulating within the
10 State's economy; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geographic isolation and reliance on
13 imported fuels also create vulnerabilities during natural
14 disasters, supply chain disruptions, and other emergencies that
15 may interrupt fuel deliveries or strain centralized energy
16 infrastructure; and

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18 WHEREAS, an energy system based on diverse local resources,
19 distributed generation, and modern grid technologies can improve
20 system resilience and help communities maintain access to power
21 during extreme events; and

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23 WHEREAS, the State has established clear clean-energy
24 goals, including the elimination of the State's dependence on
25 imported fuels of all types, and a requirement to achieve one
26 hundred percent renewable energy for electricity by 2045, making



1 the energy transition both a policy priority and a matter of
2 state law; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii now stands at a critical crossroads in
5 energy policy as the State works to transition to an electricity
6 system having significantly higher levels of variable renewable
7 energy resources such as solar and wind energies; and

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9 WHEREAS, achieving this transition will require careful
10 planning, improved coordination across sectors, and
11 consideration of emerging technologies, grid modernization
12 strategies, and lessons learned from other jurisdictions
13 pursuing similar energy transitions; and

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15 WHEREAS, several entities play important roles in shaping
16 Hawaii's energy future, including the Public Utilities
17 Commission, the Hawaii State Energy Office, electric utilities,
18 and other public and private stakeholders; and

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20 WHEREAS, these entities often operate within distinct
21 statutory mandates and institutional roles that can limit
22 opportunities for proactive, cross-sector examination of
23 long-term energy pathways; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature has the authority and
26 responsibility to establish statewide energy policy and
27 long-term statutory goals and is uniquely positioned to convene
28 stakeholders, facilitate collaboration, and bring together
29 policymakers, experts, and community voices to examine complex
30 policy challenges and identify solutions in the public interest;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, decisions regarding major energy infrastructure
34 and fuel choices may have long-term financial implications for
35 ratepayers and may affect the State's ability to achieve its
36 energy independence and clean energy goals; and

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38 WHEREAS, given the magnitude of the decisions ahead, it is
39 in the State's interest to convene a legislative task force to
40 examine potential energy pathways and identify strategies that



1 best advance affordability, resilience, reliability, and rapid
2 decarbonization; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that there is established the
7 Legislative Task Force on Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways to
8 examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing
9 risk to ratepayers over the next three decades and achieving the
10 State's energy goals and providing affordable, reliable,
11 resilient, and decarbonized energy; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force evaluate
14 potential pathways for Hawaii's energy transition, including
15 strategies for integrating high levels of renewable energy and
16 distributed energy resources into the power grid, reducing
17 long-term energy costs for residents and businesses,
18 strengthening energy independence and resilience, and examining
19 the potential risks, costs, and benefits associated with
20 proposed fossil fuel infrastructure investments, including
21 liquefied natural gas; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider lessons
24 learned from other jurisdictions pursuing rapid energy
25 transitions and identify policy recommendations that will help
26 the State to maximize cost savings and minimize risk to
27 ratepayers while achieving its statutory clean energy goals and
28 advancing the public interest; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Task Force on
31 Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways consist of the following
32 members:

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34 (1) The Chairperson of the House Committee having
35 jurisdiction over energy, or the chair's designee, who
36 shall serve as Chairperson of the task force;
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38 (2) A representative to be appointed by the President of
39 the Senate;
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- 1 (3) A representative of the Hawaii State Energy Office, to
2 be designated by the Chief Energy Officer;
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- 4 (4) A representative of the Public Utilities Commission,
5 to be designated by the Chairperson of the Public
6 Utilities Commission;
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- 8 (5) The Consumer Advocate, or the Consumer Advocate's
9 designee;
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- 11 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Natural Energy
12 Institute of the University of Hawaii;
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- 14 (7) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, to be
15 invited by the Chairperson to be a member of the task
16 force; and
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- 18 (8) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility
19 Cooperative, to be invited by the Chairperson to be a
20 member of the task force; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the task
23 force may invite additional stakeholders, subject matter
24 experts, representatives of community organizations, and experts
25 from other jurisdictions to participate in the task force's
26 discussions and provide information and technical assistance, as
27 appropriate; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit an
30 initial report of its findings, recommendations, and any
31 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty
32 days prior to the Regular Session of 2027, and a final report of
33 its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation no
34 later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2028; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
38 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chief Energy
39 Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office; Chairperson of the
40 Public Utilities Commission; Consumer Advocate; Director of the
41 Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii;



H.C.R. NO. 202

1 President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric
2 Company; and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kauai
3 Island Utility Cooperative.

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OFFERED BY:  _____

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