
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
41 best advance affordability, resilience, reliability, and rapid
42 decarbonization; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the Senate concurring, that there is established 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 providing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized energy; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the following members:

- (1) The Chairperson of the House standing committee having primary jurisdiction over energy, or the Chairperson's designee, who shall serve as Chairperson of the task force;
- (2) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (3) A representative of the Hawaii State Energy Office, to be designated by the Chief Energy Officer;



- 1 (4) A representative of the Public Utilities Commission,
- 2 to be designated by the Chairperson of the Public
- 3 Utilities Commission;
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- 5 (5) The Executive Director of the Division of Consumer
- 6 Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer
- 7 Affairs, or the Executive Director's designee; and
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- 9 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Natural Energy
- 10 Institute of the University of Hawaii; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the task
 13 force is requested to invite the following individuals to become
 14 members of the task force:

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- 16 (1) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company;
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- 18 (2) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility
- 19 Cooperative;
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- 21 (3) A representative of an independent renewable energy
- 22 developer;
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- 24 (4) A representative from an environmental advocacy group;
- 25 and
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- 27 (5) A representative from a community group; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the task
 30 force may invite additional stakeholders, subject matter
 31 experts, representatives of community organizations, and experts
 32 from other jurisdictions to participate in the task force's
 33 discussions and provide information and technical assistance, as
 34 appropriate; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit an
 37 initial report of its findings, recommendations, and any
 38 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty
 39 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027, and
 40 a final report of its findings, recommendations, and any
 41 proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the
 42 convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Energy Officer
4 of the Hawaii State Energy Office; Chairperson of the Public
5 Utilities Commission; Executive Director of the Division of
6 Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer
7 Affairs; Director of the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the
8 University of Hawaii; President and Chief Executive Officer of
9 Hawaiian Electric Company; and President and Chief Executive
10 Officer of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative.

