
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ESTABLISH AN
OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A ROADMAP AND
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, offshore wind power is in the early stages of
2 development in the United States, with numerous state and
3 federal offshore wind energy production targets already
4 established for the coming years; and

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6 WHEREAS, offshore wind development is potentially a source
7 of sustainable, cost-effective, clean power, it may also lead to
8 environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts for local
9 communities; and

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11 WHEREAS, following the establishment of the State's goal of
12 achieving one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045, areas
13 off the coast of O'ahu have been subject to unsolicited wind
14 energy lease requests; and

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16 WHEREAS, communities affected by these lease requests have
17 often expressed strong concerns or outright opposition to
18 offshore wind deployment; and

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20 WHEREAS, as offshore wind energy grows in adoption and
21 Hawaii considers possible developments in its waters, it is
22 vital to balance the benefits of this energy source with
23 infrastructure capacity and community sentiment; and

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25 WHEREAS, this resolution reflects one of the final policy
26 initiatives advanced by the late Representative Gene Ward, who
27 passed away after more than thirty years of dedicated service to
28 his community and the State of Hawai'i, during which time he
29 worked tirelessly to represent his constituents and address
30 issues affecting the future of the State; now, therefore,



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 Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to
 4 establish an Offshore Wind Energy Working Group to develop a
 5 roadmap and recommendations regarding offshore wind energy
 6 development in Hawaii; and

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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Offshore Wind Energy Working
 9 Group shall convene to:

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 11 (1) Compile and review existing data related to offshore
 12 wind energy development;
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 14 (2) Engage community stakeholders in discussions regarding
 15 offshore wind development;
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 17 (3) Evaluate the suitability of offshore wind energy
 18 development in Hawaii;
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 20 (4) Develop recommendations regarding possible adjustments
 21 to the State's renewable energy goals; and
 22
 23 (5) Establish best practices to guide the State in
 24 evaluating and initiating offshore wind energy
 25 projects; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the federal Bureau
 29 of Ocean Energy Management within the U.S. Department of the
 30 Interior, the Governor, the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawai'i
 31 State Energy Office, the Chair of the Public Utilities
 32 Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 33 Resources, the Director of the Office of Planning and
 34 Sustainable Development, the Chief Executive Officer of the
 35 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Mayor of the City and County
 36 of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY:


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