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## HOUSE 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  
27 the energy transition both a policy priority and a matter of  
28 state law; and

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1           WHEREAS, Hawaii now stands at a critical crossroads in  
2 energy policy as the State works to transition to an electricity  
3 system having significantly higher levels of variable renewable  
4 energy resources such as solar and wind energies; and  
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6           WHEREAS, achieving this transition will require careful  
7 planning, improved coordination across sectors, and  
8 consideration of emerging technologies, grid modernization  
9 strategies, and lessons learned from other jurisdictions  
10 pursuing similar energy transitions; and  
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12           WHEREAS, several entities play important roles in shaping  
13 Hawaii's energy future, including the Public Utilities  
14 Commission, the Hawaii State Energy Office, electric utilities,  
15 and other public and private stakeholders; and  
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17           WHEREAS, these entities often operate within distinct  
18 statutory mandates and institutional roles that can limit  
19 opportunities for proactive, cross-sector examination of  
20 long-term energy pathways; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Legislature has the authority and  
23 responsibility to establish statewide energy policy and  
24 long-term statutory goals and is uniquely positioned to convene  
25 stakeholders, facilitate collaboration, and bring together  
26 policymakers, experts, and community voices to examine complex  
27 policy challenges and identify solutions in the public interest;  
28 and  
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30           WHEREAS, decisions regarding major energy infrastructure  
31 and fuel choices may have long-term financial implications for  
32 ratepayers and may affect the State's ability to achieve its  
33 energy independence and clean energy goals; and  
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35           WHEREAS, given the magnitude of the decisions ahead, it is  
36 in the State's interest to convene a legislative task force to  
37 examine potential energy pathways and identify strategies that  
38 best advance affordability, resilience, reliability, and rapid  
39 decarbonization; now, therefore,  
40

41           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
42 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2026, that there is established the Legislative Task Force  
2 on Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways to examine strategies to  
3 maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over  
4 the next three decades and achieving the State's energy goals  
5 and providing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized  
6 energy; and

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

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

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Task Force on  
26 Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways consist of the following  
27 members:

- 28  
29 (1) The Chairperson of the House Committee having  
30 jurisdiction over energy, or the chair's designee, who  
31 shall serve as Chairperson of the task force;  
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33 (2) A representative to be appointed by the President of  
34 the Senate;  
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36 (3) A representative of the Hawaii State Energy Office, to  
37 be designated by the Chief Energy Officer;  
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39 (4) A representative of the Public Utilities Commission,  
40 to be designated by the Chairperson of the Public  
41 Utilities Commission;  
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- 1 (5) The Consumer Advocate, or the Consumer Advocate's
- 2 designee;
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- 4 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Natural Energy
- 5 Institute of the University of Hawaii;
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- 7 (7) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, to be
- 8 invited by the Chairperson to be a member of the task
- 9 force; and
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- 11 (8) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility
- 12 Cooperative, to be invited by the Chairperson to be a
- 13 member of the task force; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the task  
 16 force may invite additional stakeholders, subject matter  
 17 experts, representatives of community organizations, and experts  
 18 from other jurisdictions to participate in the task force's  
 19 discussions and provide information and technical assistance, as  
 20 appropriate; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit an  
 23 initial report of its findings, recommendations, and any  
 24 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty  
 25 days prior to the Regular Session of 2027, and a final report of  
 26 its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation no  
 27 later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2028; and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 30 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic  
 31 Development, and Tourism; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii  
 32 State Energy Office; Chairperson of the Public Utilities  
 33 Commission; Consumer Advocate; Director of the Hawaii Natural  
 34 Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii; President and  
 35 Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric Company; and  
 36 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kauai Island  
 37 Utility Cooperative.

38  
 39 OFFERED BY: 

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