
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,
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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, that there is established the Legislative Task Force on
 4 Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways to examine strategies to
 5 maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over
 6 the next three decades and achieving the State's energy goals
 7 and providing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized
 8 energy; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force evaluate
 11 potential pathways for Hawaii's energy transition, including
 12 strategies for integrating high levels of renewable energy and
 13 distributed energy resources into the power grid, reducing
 14 long-term energy costs for residents and businesses,
 15 strengthening energy independence and resilience, and examining
 16 the potential risks, costs, and benefits associated with
 17 proposed fossil fuel infrastructure investments, including
 18 liquefied natural gas; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider lessons
 21 learned from other jurisdictions pursuing rapid energy
 22 transitions and identify policy recommendations that will help
 23 the State to maximize cost savings and minimize risk to
 24 ratepayers while achieving its statutory clean energy goals and
 25 advancing the public interest; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
 28 following members:
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- 30 (1) The Chairperson of the House standing committee having
 31 primary jurisdiction over energy, or the Chairperson's
 32 designee, who shall serve as Chairperson of the task
 33 force;
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- 35 (2) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
 36 President of the Senate;
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- 38 (3) A representative of the Hawaii State Energy Office, to
 39 be designated by the Chief Energy Officer;
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- 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
- 8
- 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
- 26
- 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

35

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



1 proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the
2 convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and

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

