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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATUS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAWAII ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ADMINISTRATOR.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator was  
2 established in statute in 2012, authorizing the Public Utilities  
3 Commission (Commission) to implement an independent reliability  
4 administrator for the State's electric system, including the  
5 development and oversight of reliability standards and  
6 interconnection-related functions; and  
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8           WHEREAS, efficient, timely, and cost-effective  
9 interconnection processes are widely recognized as critical to  
10 maintaining electric system reliability, accelerating the  
11 delivery of renewable energy resources to the grid, and reducing  
12 costs to ratepayers; and  
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14           WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2022, concerns were  
15 raised regarding delays associated with the interconnection of  
16 renewable energy projects, as reflected in the findings and  
17 purpose section of S.B. No. 2474 (2022) and in testimony  
18 provided by the Commission to the Legislature; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the Commission has stated in legislative testimony  
21 its commitment to creating a regulatory environment that  
22 improves the interconnection process while mitigating risks to  
23 ratepayers and facilitating achievement of the State's clean  
24 energy and reliability goals; and  
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26           WHEREAS, Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 201),  
27 required the Commission to contract with a qualified consultant  
28 to conduct a comprehensive study on the accessibility of the  
29 State's electric system and procedures for interconnection,  
30 including the timeliness and costs of interconnection for  
31 renewable energy projects and submit a report prior to the



1 convening of the Regular Session of 2023, and appropriated funds  
2 for that purpose; and

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4 WHEREAS, Act 201 further required that the study include,  
5 among other things:

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- 7 (1) Reliability standards to be established by the
- 8 Commission;
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- 10 (2) Interconnection requirements and procedures;
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- 12 (3) Documentation of delays in the interconnection
- 13 process;
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- 15 (4) Evaluation of interconnection costs and methodologies;
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- 17 (5) An assessment of the Commission's progress in
- 18 implementing the Hawaii Electric Reliability
- 19 Administrator; and
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- 21 (6) Any recommendations for statutory amendments related
- 22 to the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator; and
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24 WHEREAS, while the Commission issued a report to the  
25 Legislature in late 2023 pursuant to Act 201, the report did not  
26 reflect full implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability  
27 Administrator as contemplated by Act 201; and

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29 WHEREAS, information presented in January 2026 by the  
30 Hawaii Natural Energy Institute to the Hawaii Energy Policy  
31 Forum documented that over fifty percent of renewable energy  
32 projects have been canceled before achieving commercial  
33 operations, underscoring persistent challenges related to  
34 interconnection, system access, and project execution that  
35 directly affect electric system reliability, resource adequacy,  
36 and the State's renewable energy goals; and

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38 WHEREAS, the Commission has addressed aspects of electric  
39 system reliability in various proceedings, including Docket No.  
40 2021-0024, which established working groups related to  
41 reliability functions; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the Commission has indicated that approval of  
 2 power purchase agreements may be deferred until completion of  
 3 interconnection studies, leading to financing and construction  
 4 delays and increased costs due to the repeal of federal clean  
 5 energy tax incentives, risking the potential termination of  
 6 projects, and underscoring the importance of efficient  
 7 interconnection processes and reliability oversight; and  
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9 WHEREAS, as of March 2026, the Hawaii Electric Reliability  
 10 Administrator has not been fully implemented to address  
 11 reliability standards and interconnection; and  
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13 WHEREAS, recent Hawaiian Electric Companies' Adequacy of  
 14 Supply Reports identify projected capacity shortfalls in 2028 on  
 15 the islands of Maui and Hawaii, potentially affecting  
 16 reliability and grid failures, and describe reliability  
 17 contingency measures that include the continued operation,  
 18 conversion, repowering, or life-extension of existing fossil  
 19 fuel generating at additional costs, as well as reliance on  
 20 temporary fossil fuel generation resources; and  
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22 WHEREAS, in March 2026, the Hawaiian Electric Companies  
 23 filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of an  
 24 increase in rate adjustments affecting multiple islands over the  
 25 next two years, which the utility represents includes  
 26 \$45,000,000 of accelerated depreciation for certain power  
 27 generation units scheduled for retirement over the next decade,  
 28 raising concerns regarding the near-term ratepayer impacts  
 29 associated with continued reliance on aging fossil-fuel  
 30 infrastructure; now, therefore,  
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 33 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 34 of 2026, that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to  
 35 provide a written status update on the implementation of the  
 36 Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator, to include but not be  
 37 limited to:  
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- 39 (1) A description of the specific Hawaii Electric
- 40 Reliability Administrator functions the Commission
- 41 committed to implementing following the enactment of
- 42 Act 201;



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- (2) The current status of each such function, including whether implementation efforts include or are limited to reliability standards and interconnection related roles;
- (3) The reasons for any delays in implementing the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator as contemplated by statute and legislative intent; and
- (4) A forecast timeline for full implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027 regarding progress toward implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator, until fully implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chief Energy Officer; and Executive Director of the Office of Consumer Protection of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

