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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MAKE CERTAIN  
JUDGMENTS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND DECISIONS WHEN MAKING ANY  
DETERMINATION RELATING TO A GENERATIONAL ENERGY COMMITMENT  
FOR THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, the State must ensure that any consideration of  
2 importing natural gas into Hawaii is conducted in a manner that  
3 protects ratepayers, advances clean energy goals, and safeguards  
4 long-term economic and environmental interests; and

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6           WHEREAS, proponents of natural gas have asserted that its  
7 use would reduce electricity costs and greenhouse gas emissions  
8 relative to imported petroleum; and

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10          WHEREAS, sufficient, transparent, and verifiable evidence  
11 has not been provided to substantiate these claims; and

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13          WHEREAS, long-term investments in natural gas  
14 infrastructure may expose ratepayers to significant financial  
15 risks, including stranded asset costs, fuel price volatility,  
16 and long-term contractual obligations that could inflate  
17 electricity costs; and

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19          WHEREAS, any investment in energy infrastructure for the  
20 State is a generational commitment; and

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22          WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission is mandated by law  
23 to consider increased renewable energy generation to reduce the  
24 State's fossil fuel reliance. However, proposals that  
25 contemplate transitioning to a new renewable fuel supply that is  
26 not yet fully market-ready, lacks demonstrated long-term price  
27 stability, or depends on uncertain global supply chains may  
28 expose Hawaii ratepayers to heightened cost risks and  
29 implementation uncertainties; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has statutory  
 2 authority to favorably consider costs related to renewable  
 3 energy as an alternative to fossil fuels. Nevertheless, the  
 4 introduction of a renewable fuel supply at prices materially  
 5 higher than existing or readily available alternatives could  
 6 result in significant and immediate rate increases, creating  
 7 rate shock for households and businesses already facing high  
 8 energy costs, which may disproportionately impact low- and  
 9 moderate-income households and small businesses, exacerbating  
 10 economic inequities and undermining public confidence in the  
 11 State's energy transition; and

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 13           WHEREAS, even if such a transition were focused on one  
 14 island, it may have significant secondary impacts statewide as  
 15 the displacement of locally refined petroleum products could  
 16 reduce or eliminate in-state refining capacity, leading to  
 17 increased reliance on imported finished fuels overall and  
 18 disproportionate economic burdens on neighbor island communities  
 19 that already face elevated fuel and shipping expenses; and

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 21           WHEREAS, Hawaii has established a statutory mandate to  
 22 achieve one hundred percent renewable portfolio standards by  
 23 2045. However, if compliance with the renewable portfolio  
 24 standards requires reliance on costly or not-yet-commercially  
 25 viable fuel pathways, the resulting rate impacts may create  
 26 pressure to delay, weaken, or otherwise modify the State's  
 27 statutory renewable portfolio standards. Such pressure may be  
 28 amplified by stakeholders with existing or prospective  
 29 investments in fossil fuel infrastructure who may advocate for  
 30 extending the use of fossil fuels or revising the 2045 renewable  
 31 portfolio standard to protect those investments; and

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 33           WHEREAS, substantial new investment in fossil fuel  
 34 infrastructure may undermine progress toward the State's one  
 35 hundred percent renewable portfolio goal and divert capital,  
 36 policy focus, and market signals away from the development of  
 37 indigenous, renewable energy sources. Any weakening, delay, or  
 38 rollback of the State's renewable portfolio standards would  
 39 undermine long-term energy affordability, environmental  
 40 protection, and energy independence goals, while increasing  
 41 exposure to volatile global fossil fuel markets; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is therefore in the State's interest to ensure  
2 that near-term fuel decisions do not create economic or  
3 political conditions that could jeopardize achievement of the  
4 2045 renewable portfolio standard; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
8 House of Representatives concurring, that in making any  
9 determination relating to a generational energy commitment for  
10 the State, the Public Utilities Commission is requested to:  
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- 12 (1) Exercise sound and independent judgment;
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- 14 (2) Carefully consider all relevant information when
- 15 balancing short-term energy needs and the State's
- 16 long-term energy commitments;
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- 18 (3) Use evidenced-based decision-making; and
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- 20 (4) Ensure transparency in the decision-making process;
- 21 and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
24 is requested to evaluate any proposal involving liquefied  
25 natural gas or other imported fuels with direct consideration of  
26 its potential effects on, or delays, to the State's statutory  
27 renewable portfolio standards, including the 2045 deadline; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce  
31 and Consumer Affairs, Executive Director of the Division of  
32 Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
33 Affairs, Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office,  
34 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, and President  
35 and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric.

