
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 devalue any proposal involving liquefied natural
25 gas that may increase the likelihood of efforts to delay,
26 weaken, or otherwise modify the State's statutory renewable
27 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.

