

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE BEST PATHS TO MAXIMIZE COST
REDUCTION AND MINIMIZE FINANCIAL RISK TO HAWAII RESIDENTS
WHILE MEETING STATE GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is extremely vulnerable to sudden and
2 enormous cost increases as a result of its reliance on imports,
3 including from global conflicts, international politics, and
4 numerous other forces outside of Hawaii's control, which has
5 spiked the cost of natural gas and oil, whose costs to acquire
6 have dramatically risen as a result of the Iran conflict; and
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8 WHEREAS, the cost of renewable technologies continues to
9 dramatically fall, with battery storage and solar costs dropping
10 ninety percent over the last decade, while their generation and
11 storage capacity continue to expand as rare metals, such as
12 lithium, are being replaced by common sodium and other long-
13 duration storage innovations; and
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15 WHEREAS, states such as California have made remarkable
16 progress on their grid by leveraging innovative renewables and
17 battery storage to replace natural gas and coal, helping to
18 reduce cost volatility and improving grid reliability with
19 innovative renewables and long-duration storage that have
20 completely eliminated brownouts and blackouts as a result of a
21 lack of capacity, an issue that Oahu now faces monthly; and
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23 WHEREAS, section 226-18(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
24 directs the state agency plans, decisions, and strategies to
25 account for "increased energy security and self-sufficiency
26 through the reduction and ultimate elimination of Hawaii's
27 dependence on imported fuels for electrical generation..."; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the Legislature found that "Hawaii's dependence on
30 imported fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars
31 each year", and "a stronger local economy depends on a



1 transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local
2 resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy"
3 which it wrote into Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
4 mandating one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission decided in 2016
7 against plans that would have led to the import of liquefied
8 natural gas (LNG), and the Hawaii Supreme Court, in 2022,
9 decided against allowing the Commission to pass the cost of
10 other natural gas projects on to ratepayers because the agency
11 failed to fulfill its "affirmative duty to reduce the State's
12 reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and renewable
13 energy generation"; and
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15 WHEREAS, in January 2025, the Hawaii State Energy Office
16 published its "Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy
17 Transition Study", in which it justified reviving plans to
18 import LNG to Hawaii, though in March 2026, an independent
19 review found basic errors in the calculations of the study,
20 including a failure to count the LNG fuel costs in the
21 cost-benefit analysis which eliminates claimed cost savings from
22 LNG and instead would increase costs to consumers by at least
23 \$300 million; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office's "Alternative
26 Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study" was also limited
27 to considering replacing existing fuels for power generation
28 with new fuels and did not make a meaningful comparison to or
29 evaluate replacing existing fuels with cheaper renewable
30 options, potentially missing billions of dollars of savings for
31 consumers as a result of innovative technology such as moving
32 beyond Hawaii's typical four-hour energy storage to a newer one
33 hundred hour or greater energy storage that would enable
34 additional cheaper renewable energy capacity, a strategy already
35 proving successful elsewhere; and
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37 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission previously opined
38 that plans developed by stakeholders that may eventually be
39 considered by the Commission are frequently developed with
40 predetermined limitations or assumptions artificially limiting
41 the scope of a plan, such as focusing on strategies that may be



1 a priority in a stakeholder's interest, but missing others that
2 might be in the public interest; and

3
4 WHEREAS, decisions likely to be made in the next few years
5 may lock Hawaii and its residents into billions of dollars in
6 additional costs, or billions of dollars in additional savings,
7 so it is of absolute, critical importance that the best options
8 are thoroughly evaluated to help inform ongoing state and
9 utility planning so the best decisions can be made for the
10 people of Hawaii; and

11
12 WHEREAS, recent events continue to highlight Hawaii's
13 vulnerability to the volatility and rising costs to local
14 families of relying on imported fuels, such as cold weather and
15 polar vortexes driving up heating demand and fuel costs in the
16 United States and geopolitical events, such as the war in Iran,
17 which has triggered the latest giant spike in natural gas and
18 oil prices that increase costs for local consumers and siphon
19 billions of dollars out of Hawaii's economy each year; now,
20 therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities
25 Commission is requested to conduct an objective, independent
26 analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost
27 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
28 energy while meeting the State's established goals; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
31 is requested to contract and engage with experts as may be
32 appropriate to develop two separate independent and objective
33 analyses to ensure beyond a reasonable that the paths are
34 thoroughly evaluated; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to
37 examine the best potential paths for Hawaii to maximize cost
38 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
39 energy while meeting established state goals, from now through
40 2055, accounting for what costs or savings Hawaii residents will
41 bear in a period beyond 2045 based on the paths evaluated; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to,
2 at minimum, be designed to consider the latest strategies,
3 technologies, innovations, and options being developed and
4 implemented in Hawaii and other states and jurisdictions that
5 are proving most successful and may help Hawaii maximize cost
6 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents while
7 meeting established state goals; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
10 is requested to submit a preliminary report of findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
13 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
16 is requested to submit a final report of its findings and
17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
18 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2028; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Executive
23 Officer of the Public Utilities Commission, and Chief Energy
24 Officer.
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OFFERED BY: _____

