
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
7

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
14

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
22

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



1 WHEREAS, the Legislature found that "Hawaii's dependence on
2 imported fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars
3 each year", and "a stronger local economy depends on a
4 transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local
5 resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy"
6 which it wrote into Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
7 mandating one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission decided in 2016
10 against plans that would have led to the import of liquefied
11 natural gas (LNG), and the Hawaii Supreme Court, in 2022,
12 decided against allowing the Commission to pass the cost of
13 other natural gas projects on to ratepayers because the agency
14 failed to fulfill its "affirmative duty to reduce the State's
15 reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and renewable
16 energy generation"; and
17

18 WHEREAS, in January 2025, the Hawaii State Energy Office
19 published its "Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy
20 Transition Study", in which it justified reviving plans to
21 import LNG to Hawaii, though in March 2026, an independent
22 review found basic errors in the calculations of the study,
23 including a failure to count the LNG fuel costs in the
24 cost-benefit analysis, which eliminates claimed cost savings
25 from LNG and instead would increase costs to consumers by at
26 least \$300 million; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission previously opined
29 that plans developed by stakeholders that may eventually be
30 considered by the Commission are frequently developed with
31 predetermined limitations or assumptions artificially limiting
32 the scope of a plan, such as focusing on strategies that may be
33 a priority in a stakeholder's interest, but missing others that
34 might be in the public interest; and
35

36 WHEREAS, decisions likely to be made in the next few years
37 may lock Hawaii and its residents into billions of dollars in
38 additional costs, or billions of dollars in additional savings,
39 so it is of absolute, critical importance that the best options
40 are thoroughly evaluated to help inform ongoing state and
41 utility planning so the best decisions can be made for the
42 people of Hawaii; and



1
2 WHEREAS, recent events continue to highlight Hawaii's
3 vulnerability to the volatility and rising costs to local
4 families of relying on imported fuels, such as cold weather and
5 polar vortexes driving up heating demand and fuel costs in the
6 United States and geopolitical events, such as the war in Iran,
7 which has triggered the latest giant spike in natural gas and
8 oil prices that increase costs for local consumers and siphon
9 billions of dollars out of Hawaii's economy each year; now,
10 therefore,

11
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities
15 Commission is requested to conduct an objective, independent
16 analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost
17 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
18 energy while meeting the State's established goals; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
21 is requested to contract and engage with experts as may be
22 appropriate to develop independent and objective analyses to
23 ensure that the paths are thoroughly evaluated; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to
26 examine the best potential paths for Hawaii to maximize cost
27 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
28 energy while meeting established state goals, from now through
29 2055, accounting for what costs or savings Hawaii residents will
30 bear in a period beyond 2045 based on the paths evaluated; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to,
33 at minimum, be designed to consider the best-available
34 information on energy system technologies, innovations, and
35 options to implement in Hawaii, including experience from other
36 states and jurisdictions that are successfully transitioning
37 their energy systems from fossil fuels, to help Hawaii maximize
38 cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents
39 while meeting established state goals; and

40
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
42 is requested to use open and transparent methods to conduct the



1 analyses, engage local and national experts, and provide
2 opportunities for stakeholders to inform and review the
3 analyses; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
6 is requested to submit a preliminary report of findings and
7 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
8 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
9 the Regular Session of 2027; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
12 is requested to submit a final report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
14 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2028; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
18 is requested to implement these analyses, findings, and
19 recommendations to inform any decisions by the Commission that
20 would result in long-term contractual or financial obligations
21 involving the use and reliance on imported fuels at the
22 ratepayers' expense; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Executive
26 Officer of the Public Utilities Commission, Chair of the Public
27 Utilities Commission, and Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii
28 State Energy Office.

