
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

29 WHEREAS, the Legislature found that "Hawaii's dependence on
30 imported fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars



1 each year", and "a stronger local economy depends on a
2 transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local
3 resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy"
4 which it wrote into Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
5 mandating one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and
6

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

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

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

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



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

10
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities
14 Commission is requested to conduct an objective, independent
15 analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost
16 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
17 energy while meeting the State's established goals; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
20 is requested to contract and engage with experts as may be
21 appropriate to develop two separate independent and objective
22 analyses to ensure that the paths are thoroughly evaluated; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to
25 examine the best potential paths for Hawaii to maximize cost
26 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
27 energy while meeting established state goals, from now through
28 2055, accounting for what costs or savings Hawaii residents will
29 bear in a period beyond 2045 based on the paths evaluated; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to,
32 at minimum, be designed to consider the latest strategies,
33 technologies, innovations, and options being developed and
34 implemented in Hawaii and other states and jurisdictions that
35 are proving most successful and may help Hawaii maximize cost
36 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents while
37 meeting established state goals; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
40 is requested to submit a preliminary report of findings and
41 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2027; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
5 is requested to submit a final report of its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
8 the Regular Session of 2028; and

9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Executive
12 Officer of the Public Utilities Commission, and Chief Energy
13 Officer.

