

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATUS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAWAII ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ADMINISTRATOR.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator was
2 established in statute in 2012, which authorizes the Public
3 Utilities Commission (Commission) to implement an independent
4 reliability administrator for the State's electric system,
5 including the development and oversight of reliability standards
6 and interconnection-related functions; and

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8 WHEREAS, efficient, timely, and cost-effective
9 interconnection processes are widely recognized as critical to
10 maintaining electric system reliability, accelerating the
11 delivery of renewable energy resources to the grid, and reducing
12 costs to ratepayers; and

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14 WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2022, concerns were
15 raised regarding delays associated with the interconnection of
16 renewable energy projects, as reflected in the findings and
17 purpose section of S.B. No. 2474 (2022) and in testimony
18 provided by the Commission to the Legislature; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Commission has stated in legislative testimony
21 its commitment to creating a regulatory environment that
22 improves the interconnection process while mitigating risks to
23 ratepayers and facilitating achievement of the State's clean
24 energy and reliability goals; and

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26 WHEREAS, Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 201),
27 required the Commission to contract with a qualified consultant
28 to conduct a comprehensive study on the accessibility of the
29 State's electric system and procedures for interconnection,
30 including the timeliness and costs of interconnection for
31 renewable energy projects and submit a report prior to convening



1 of the Regular Session of 2023, and appropriated funds for that
2 purpose; and

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4 WHEREAS, Act 201 further required that the study include,
5 among other things:

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7 (1) Reliability standards to be established by the
8 Commission;
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10 (2) Interconnection requirements and procedures;
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12 (3) Documentation of delays in the interconnection
13 process;
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15 (4) Evaluation of interconnection costs and methodologies;
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17 (5) An assessment of the Commission's progress in
18 implementing the Hawaii Electric Reliability
19 Administrator; and
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21 (6) Any recommendations for statutory amendments related
22 to the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator; and
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24 WHEREAS, while the Commission issued a report to the
25 Legislature in late 2023 pursuant to Act 201, the report did not
26 reflect full implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability
27 Administrator as contemplated by Act 201; and

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29 WHEREAS, information presented in January 2026 by the
30 Hawaii Natural Energy Institute to the Hawaii Energy Policy
31 Forum documented that over fifty percent of renewable energy
32 projects have been canceled before achieving commercial
33 operations, underscoring persistent challenges related to
34 interconnection, system access, and project execution that
35 directly affect electric system reliability, resource adequacy,
36 and the State's renewable energy goals; and

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38 WHEREAS, the Commission has addressed aspects of electric
39 system reliability in various proceedings, including Docket No.
40 2021-0024, which established working groups related to
41 reliability functions; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Commission has indicated that approval of
2 power purchase agreements may be deferred until completion of
3 interconnection studies, leading to financing and construction
4 delays and increased costs due to the repeal of federal clean
5 energy tax incentives, risking the potential termination of
6 projects, underscoring the importance of efficient
7 interconnection processes and reliability oversight; and

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9 WHEREAS, as of March 2026, the Hawaii Electric Reliability
10 Administrator has not been fully implemented to address
11 reliability standards and interconnection; and

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13 WHEREAS, recent Hawaiian Electric Companies' Adequacy of
14 Supply Reports identify projected capacity shortfalls in 2028 on
15 the islands of Maui and Hawaii, potentially affecting
16 reliability and grid failures, and describe reliability
17 contingency measures that include the continued operation,
18 conversion, repowering, or life-extension of existing fossil
19 fuel generating at additional costs, as well as reliance on
20 temporary fossil fuel generation resources; and

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22 WHEREAS, in March 2026, the Hawaiian Electric Companies
23 filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of an
24 increase in rate adjustments affecting multiple islands over the
25 next two years, which the utility represents includes \$45
26 million of accelerated depreciation for certain power generation
27 units scheduled for retirement over the next decade, raising
28 concerns regarding the near-term ratepayer impacts associated
29 with continued reliance on aging fossil-fuel infrastructure;
30 now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities
35 Commission is requested to provide a written status update on
36 the implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability
37 Administrator, to include but not be limited to:

- 38
39 (1) A description of the specific Hawaii Electric
40 Reliability Administrator functions the Commission
41 committed to implementing following the enactment of
42 Act 201;



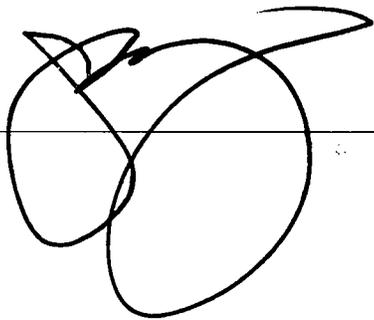
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- (2) The current status of each such function, including whether implementation efforts include or are limited to reliability standards and interconnection related roles;
- (3) The reasons for any delays in implementing the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator as contemplated by statute and legislative intent; and
- (4) A forecasted timeline for full implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission is requested to submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session regarding the progress towards implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator, until fully implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chief Energy Officer; and Executive Director of the Office of Consumer Protection of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

OFFERED BY:


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