

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
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
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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
32 transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local
33 resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy"



1 which it wrote into Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
2 mandating one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission decided in 2016
5 against plans that would have led to the import of liquefied
6 natural gas (LNG), and the Hawaii Supreme Court, in 2022,
7 decided against allowing the Commission to pass the cost of
8 other natural gas projects on to ratepayers because the agency
9 failed to fulfill its "affirmative duty to reduce the State's
10 reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and renewable
11 energy generation"; and
12

13 WHEREAS, in January 2025, the Hawaii State Energy Office
14 published its "Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy
15 Transition Study", in which it justified reviving plans to
16 import LNG to Hawaii, though in March 2026, an independent
17 review found basic errors in the calculations of the study,
18 including a failure to count the LNG fuel costs in the
19 cost-benefit analysis which eliminates claimed cost savings from
20 LNG and instead would increase costs to consumers by at least
21 \$300 million; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office's "Alternative
24 Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study" was also limited
25 to considering replacing existing fuels for power generation
26 with new fuels and did not make a meaningful comparison to or
27 evaluate replacing existing fuels with cheaper renewable
28 options, potentially missing billions of dollars of savings for
29 consumers as a result of innovative technology such as moving
30 beyond Hawaii's typical four-hour energy storage to a newer one
31 hundred hour or greater energy storage that would enable
32 additional cheaper renewable energy capacity, a strategy already
33 proving successful elsewhere; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission previously opined
36 that plans developed by stakeholders that may eventually be
37 considered by the Commission are frequently developed with
38 predetermined limitations or assumptions artificially limiting
39 the scope of a plan, such as focusing on strategies that may be
40 a priority in a stakeholder's interest, but missing others that
41 might be in the public interest; and
42



1 WHEREAS, decisions likely to be made in the next few years
2 may lock Hawaii and its residents into billions of dollars in
3 additional costs, or billions of dollars in additional savings,
4 so it is of absolute, critical importance that the best options
5 are thoroughly evaluated to help inform ongoing state and
6 utility planning so the best decisions can be made for the
7 people of Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, recent events continue to highlight Hawaii's
10 vulnerability to the volatility and rising costs to local
11 families of relying on imported fuels, such as cold weather and
12 polar vortexes driving up heating demand and fuel costs in the
13 United States and geopolitical events, such as the war in Iran,
14 which has triggered the latest giant spike in natural gas and
15 oil prices that increase costs for local consumers and siphon
16 billions of dollars out of Hawaii's economy each year; now,
17 therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
21 that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to conduct an
22 objective, independent analysis and evaluation on the best paths
23 to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii
24 residents for energy while meeting the State's established
25 goals; and
26

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

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to
34 examine the best potential paths for Hawaii to maximize cost
35 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for
36 energy while meeting established state goals, from now through
37 2055, accounting for what costs or savings Hawaii residents will
38 bear in a period beyond 2045 based on the paths evaluated; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analyses are requested to,
41 at minimum, be designed to consider the latest strategies,
42 technologies, innovations, and options being developed and



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1 implemented in Hawaii and other states and jurisdictions that
2 are proving most successful and may help Hawaii maximize cost
3 reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents while
4 meeting established state goals; and

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

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Executive Officer of
20 the Public Utilities Commission, and Chief Energy Officer.

21
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23 OFFERED BY: _____

