

---

---

# 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  
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  
31 each year", and "a stronger local economy depends on a  
32 transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local



1 resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy"  
2 which it wrote into Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,  
3 mandating one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and  
4

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

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

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

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

40 WHEREAS, recent events continue to highlight Hawaii's  
41 vulnerability to the volatility and rising costs to local  
42 families of relying on imported fuels, such as cold weather and



1 polar vortexes driving up heating demand and fuel costs in the  
2 United States and geopolitical events, such as the war in Iran,  
3 which has triggered the latest giant spike in natural gas and  
4 oil prices that increase costs for local consumers and siphon  
5 billions of dollars out of Hawaii's economy each year; now,  
6 therefore,  
7

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

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

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

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

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
37 is requested to submit a preliminary report of findings and  
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
39 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of  
40 the Regular Session of 2027; and  
41

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

6

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

