

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO HOLD AT LEAST TWO PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS AND RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY OR POTENTIAL MAJOR ENERGY PROJECTS BEFORE APPROVING MAJOR ENERGY PROJECTS THAT WOULD BE HOSTED IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State is on a path to one hundred percent
2 renewable energy by 2045, with significant investment in energy
3 infrastructure including utility-scale solar and wind farms,
4 battery storage, grid modernization, electric vehicle charging,
5 and firm power generation plants; and
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7 WHEREAS, the benefits of the State's clean energy
8 transition, however, have not been shared equitably, with the
9 ability of wealthy homeowners to install rooftop solar and
10 access tax credits and rebates while renters, apartment
11 residents, and working families still pay some of the highest
12 electric rates in the nation; and
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14 WHEREAS, rural families, low-income households, and Native
15 Hawaiian communities continue to lack access to the benefits of
16 major energy projects that are sited near them and are
17 disproportionately impacted by energy infrastructure; and
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19 WHEREAS, major energy projects can be approved without
20 community input which fosters conflict, lawsuits, and delays for
21 construction that derail the State's clean energy goals; and
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23 WHEREAS, addressing the inequity of electricity bills in
24 proportion to income between working families and wealthy
25 households must be a state priority; and
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27 WHEREAS, major energy projects should therefore be
28 subjected to energy equity impact assessments and community
29 input in order to protect working families from elevated costs
30 and promote local economic opportunity; 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,



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1 that the Public Utilities Commission is urged to hold at least
2 two public community meetings to discuss and receive input from
3 the community on a potential major energy project before
4 approving a major energy project that would be hosted in the
5 affected community; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purposes of the public
8 community meetings, "major energy project" is requested to mean
9 projects with a total capital cost of \$10,000,000 or greater, or
10 that require public utilities commission approval, including but
11 not be limited to:

- 12
13 (1) Utility-scale solar photovoltaic systems;
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15 (2) Wind energy generating facilities;
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17 (3) Battery storage systems;
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19 (4) Grid modernization and transmission systems;
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21 (5) Electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
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23 (6) Geothermal energy facilities;
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25 (7) Firm power generating facilities; and
26
27 (8) Utility rate cases affecting residential customer
28 rates; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Public Utilities Commission.
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OFFERED BY:  _____

