
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF ROBUST DISCUSSIONS THAT INCLUDE THE EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE OWNERSHIP MODELS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the pending sale of Hawaiian Electric Industries,
2 Inc., to Florida-based NextEra Energy, Inc., could lead to a
3 fundamental shift in the energy landscape of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the proposed sale has spurred public interest in
6 examining different ownership schemes for Hawaii's electric
7 utility services; and
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9 WHEREAS, energy cooperatives offer an alternative ownership
10 structure that allows for democratic and local control of energy
11 resources; and
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13 WHEREAS, energy cooperatives can offer savings to consumers
14 through their tax-exempt status, reinvestment of revenues, and
15 lower capital costs; and
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17 WHEREAS, an energy cooperative may offer further benefit to
18 ratepayers through its ability to adapt to and incorporate
19 rapidly evolving technologies; and
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21 WHEREAS, jobs in Hawaii's energy industries provide a
22 strong tax base and economic stability and are essential to
23 maintaining a strong middle class in Hawaii; and
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25 WHEREAS, the utility and energy industries in Hawaii and
26 their employees will be affected by the acquisition of Hawaiian
27 Electric Industries, Inc., by NextEra Energy, Inc.; and



1 WHEREAS, as discussions proceed on the proposed sale of
2 Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., it is beneficial to all to
3 have a broad scope of discussion that includes alternatives like
4 energy cooperatives and explores the option of public ownership
5 by consumers of electric utility services; and
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7 WHEREAS, the participation of energy cooperatives in this
8 discussion will offer a unique perspective on the goals and
9 objectives of local communities; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
14 expresses its support of efforts to facilitate local ownership
15 and control of electric utilities and local generation of
16 energy; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses its
19 encouragement of robust discussions that include the exploration
20 of alternative ownership models for electric utilities and
21 whether these would provide a positive outcome for Hawaii's
22 consumers; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
26 Public Utilities Commission.

