
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE STATE'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO IMPLEMENT A
PROGRAM FOR DONATIONS OF EXCESS ENERGY FROM PHOTOVOLTAIC
PANELS.

1 WHEREAS, residents of Hawaii recognize that the cost of
2 living in paradise comes at the expense of their wallets; and
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4 WHEREAS, the costs of housing, food, and energy in Hawaii
5 are among some of the highest in the United States; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii imports 90 percent of its energy and has
8 the highest electricity prices in the nation due to its isolated
9 location and dependence on petroleum; and
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11 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
12 Administration reports that in October 2014, Hawaii residents
13 paid 36.41 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), commercial owners paid
14 33.85 cents per kWh, and industrial owners paid 29.89 cents per
15 kWh, while the national averages in respect to each category for
16 energy costs were 12.58 cents per kWh, 10.87 cents per kWh, and
17 6.95 cents per kWh; and
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19 WHEREAS, alternative sources of energy have become
20 increasingly popular in the State of Hawaii; and
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22 WHEREAS, solar energy provided only 0.8 percent of Hawaii's
23 renewable energy generation in 2007, but has risen to 23 percent
24 in 2013; and
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26 WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels to produce solar
27 energy allows residents to defray the costs of energy use; and
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1 WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels in Hawaii has
2 increased over time, with the 40,717 photovoltaic systems
3 currently installed providing a capacity of 312.3 megawatts
4 (MW); and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's progressive energy policies support
7 photovoltaic systems and provide incentives for residents to
8 utilize photovoltaic energy, such as state tax incentives or
9 feed-in-tariffs that permit owners of small renewable energy
10 projects to receive fixed rates for renewable electricity; and

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12 WHEREAS, net energy metering allows residential customers
13 to obtain full retail value for excess solar energy fed into the
14 grid, transforming unused energy into a monetary credit against
15 future energy bills; and

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17 WHEREAS, the rising cost of electric energy, which is a
18 necessity for daily operations, may force nonprofit
19 organizations and schools to cut programs, job positions, or
20 employee pay when electrical bills consume greater portions of
21 annual operating budgets; and

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23 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and schools often struggle
24 to conduct business or meet student needs and are forced to rely
25 on uncertain grants and outside funding despite the necessity of
26 their services to the State; and

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28 WHEREAS, defraying the energy costs of these schools and
29 organizations would allow them to reallocate funds to other
30 critical areas, such as personnel and service provision; now,
31 therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the State's
36 electric utilities are encouraged to implement a program where
37 credits from excess energy received from residential
38 photovoltaic customers may be donated to nonprofit organizations
39 or schools for their electricity bills; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chief



H.C.R. NO. 114

1 Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Electric Companies, President
2 and Chief Executive Officer of Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative,
3 and Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

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6 OFFERED BY:

Takali O'ma

Clara

MAR 12 2015

