
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ALLOW HAWAII
ELECTRIC AND LIGHT COMPANY TO CONTINUE ITS NEGOTIATIONS
WITH KAHUA RANCH AND NA MAKANI MOA E KU, LLC, ON THE KAHUA
FAST-RESPONSE HYDRO PROJECT.

1 WHEREAS, one of the foremost obstacles to the development
2 and implementation of many renewable energy generating sources
3 is the intermittent nature of these sources, such as a lack of
4 sunshine or wind; and

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6 WHEREAS, an electrical public utility such as Hawaii
7 Electric and Light Company (HELCO) must ensure that its
8 customers receive reliable and continuous service; and

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10 WHEREAS, Kahua Ranch (Kahua) and Na Makani Moa e Ku, LLC
11 (Na Makani), have developed the Kahua Fast-Response Hydro
12 Project that utilizes wind energy as a renewable energy source
13 but also as a part of a pumped hydro electric system that uses
14 renewable energy during non-peak hours to pump water up to a
15 storage reservoir, which services as a fast-response source of
16 "stored" energy that is available on short notice when the wind
17 energy is unavailable to ameliorate any sudden drop of energy
18 from the renewable wind energy source; and

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20 WHEREAS, Kahua and Na Makani have been negotiating with
21 HELCO since 2006 on the problems of grid integration and the
22 implementation of the Kahua Fast-Response Hydro Project as a
23 pilot project that eventually may be used in other locations in
24 the State to back up intermittent renewable energy sources; and

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26 WHEREAS, in January 2009, the Public Utilities Commission
27 ordered HELCO to terminate its negotiations with Kahua and Na
28 Makani on the Kahua Fast-Response Hydro Project pilot project,
29 presumably due to its desire to institute competitive bidding
30 for renewable energy and to decouple renewable energy from



1 fossil fuels based on "avoided costs" as mandated by federal law
2 and regulation; and
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4 WHEREAS, competitive bidding would not be applicable in the
5 case of the Kahu Fast-Response Hydro Project pilot project
6 because it is a pilot project located on a unique site that will
7 demonstrate the feasibility of pump hydro as a new technology in
8 grid integration and energy storage technology that will lead to
9 open markets for competitive bidding by renewable energy
10 projects in the future; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities
15 Commission is requested to allow the Hawaii Electric and Light
16 Company to continue negotiations with Kahua Ranch and Na Makani
17 Moe e Ku, LLC, to implement the Kahua Fast-Response Hydro
18 Project as a pilot project to prove the efficacy of using pumped
19 hydro as a reliable method of energy storage; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the
23 Public Utilities Commission, Kahua Ranch, Na Makani Moa e Ku,
24 LLC, and Hawaii Electric Light Company, respectively.
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OFFERED BY:



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