
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES JOBS AND INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, HEIGHTENS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, POSITIONS THE UNITED STATES TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CLEAN ENERGY, AND ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT PREEMPTING STATES' RIGHTS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS AND TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, the United States currently spends approximately
2 \$1,000,000,000 a day to import oil, and by 2030, the United
3 States Department of Energy estimates, that without
4 comprehensive clean energy legislation, the country's reliance
5 on foreign oil could cost \$8,500,000,000,000; and
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7 WHEREAS, under the United States' current energy policy,
8 American wealth is being transferred to nations that are rich
9 with oil; however, many of those nations are politically
10 unstable or unfriendly to the United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change increases political
13 and social instability in poorer regions of the world, thus
14 presenting potential security challenges for the United States;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate of two
18 hundred fifty per cent faster than the rest of the economy; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
21 Administration projects clean energy job growth of up to two
22 million new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy
23 legislation; and
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25 WHEREAS, without comprehensive clean energy legislation,
26 America will face significant global competition for clean



1 energy development that could weaken the United States economy
2 and threaten American innovation; and

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4 WHEREAS, thousands of businesses have joined together to
5 call for comprehensive federal clean energy legislation
6 including, among others, members of the United States Climate
7 Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and

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9 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, in the absence of
10 comprehensive federal clean energy legislation, the states have
11 become the true "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean
12 energy policies; and

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14 WHEREAS, many states have adopted renewable energy
15 standards and goals that require a significant percentage of a
16 state's electricity to be generated from non-fossil fuel
17 renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydropower,
18 biomass, and biofuels, which have led to significant job growth
19 in the clean energy sector of the national economy; and

20
21 WHEREAS, in 2008, Hawaii adopted the Hawaii Clean Energy
22 Initiative which supports and encourages the rapid development
23 of renewable energy; and

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25 WHEREAS, wave energy is a potent and readily available form
26 of clean energy for Hawaii that has an immense amount of power
27 potential to supply clean, emission-free, baseload electricity;
28 and

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30 WHEREAS, the generation of electricity through the use of
31 renewable energy presents opportunities to promote energy self-
32 sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits, preserve natural
33 resources, and improve the environment; and

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35 WHEREAS, the United States' dependence on fossil fuels
36 weakens the nation's economy, threatens its national security,
37 and creates negative impacts on the environment; and

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39 WHEREAS, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of
40 American consumers, spur inflation, and boost the prices of
41 basic goods and services; and

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43 WHEREAS, studies show that a majority of voters see climate
44 change as a real, immediate, and serious threat; believe that



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1 efforts to reduce greenhouse gases will create jobs; favor
2 action to reduce carbon emissions; and support the key elements
3 of the American Clean Energy and Security Act; and
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5 WHEREAS, a national statutory framework for clean energy
6 will provide a predictable regulatory framework that will spur
7 innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector; and
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9 WHEREAS, in the absence of congressional action, the
10 Environmental Protection Agency has announced its intention to
11 regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules
12 rather than legislation; and
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14 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed
15 the American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on
16 a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States
17 Senate are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy
18 Jobs and American Power Act; and
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20 WHEREAS, Congress has the historic opportunity to enact
21 comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that
22 will strengthen our national security, create clean energy jobs,
23 and reduce pollution; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress
28 is urged to pass comprehensive clean energy, jobs, and climate
29 change legislation; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
32 urged to include in legislation:
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- 34 (1) A unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas
35 emissions;
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- 37 (2) Protection for low and moderate income Americans from
38 increased energy costs;
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- 40 (3) Substantial investments in energy efficiency; and
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- 42 (4) Support for alternative sources of energy including
43 wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, and bio-fuels;
44 and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is urged to pass national clean energy and climate change legislation that does not preempt state legislative efforts to control carbon emissions and to advance clean energy innovations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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