HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010
STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 153

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE FOR THE
NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY AS AN
INCUBATOR FOR RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF ENERGY,
HIGH TECHNOLOGY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.

WHEREAS, in 1974 the Legislature passed Act 235, Session
Laws of Hawaii 1974, that established the Hawaii Natural Energy
Institute to coordinate the development of non-polluting natural
energy sources for Hawaii including "geothermal, solar
radiation, ocean temperature differential, wind, waves, and
currents", and Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 1974, to
establish a state natural energy laboratory on three hundred
twenty-two acres of land at Keahole Point on the Big Island of
Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 the Legislature passed Act 59, Session
Laws of Hawaii 1984, that established a corporate entity known
as the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii for the purpose of
"research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of
natural energy resources", allowing the Natural Energy
Laboratory of Hawaii to host new tenant business ventures
attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development,
and Tourism; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 the Legislature passed Act 224, Session
Laws of Hawaii 1990, which combined the Natural Energy
Laboratory of Hawaii and the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology
Park into one agency, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii
Authority; and in 1999 the Legislature expanded the activities
of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority to include
other business activities that could enhance economic
development and generate additional revenues to support the
growing research park; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
currently houses forty-three tenants with five additional
companies applying for leases; and

509
WHEREAS, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority has maintained economic self-sufficiency since 2006 and its tenants conduct research, development, and commercialization activities in ocean thermal energy conversion, solar thermal concentration, wind energy, deep sea water technologies, and creating biofuels from algae; and

WHEREAS, despite functioning with half of the staff that it employed fifteen years ago, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority has received international acclaim for its unique permitted offshore research corridor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its forty-three tenants that employ over three hundred people with over $200,000,000 in private investments, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority has embarked on a unique venture involving a team of fifteen researchers from Old Dominion University, Georgia Tech University, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the United States Geological Survey, and two German research groups, the Max Planck Institute and Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen, to isolate and study dissolved organic matter from both the surface and deep waters at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority in order to better characterize this major global carbon pool and its role on global climate change and marine ecology; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Legislature reaffirms its support for the activities of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority as an incubator for research and commercialization of energy, high technology, and economic development in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, and the Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer, and members of the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority.

OFFERED BY: 

Date: MAR 9 2010