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.

WHEREAS, the United States currently spends approximately
$1,000,000,000 a day to import oil, and by 2030, the United
States Department of Energy estimates, that without
comprehensive clean energy legislation, the country's reliance
on foreign oil could cost $8,500,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS, under the United States' current energy policy,
American wealth is being transferred to nations that are rich
with oil; however, many of those nations are politically
unstable or unfriendly to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change increases political
and social instability in poorer regions of the world, thus
presenting potential security challenges for the United States; and

WHEREAS, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate of two
hundred fifty per cent faster than the rest of the economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
Administration projects clean energy job growth of up to two
million new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy
legislation; and

WHEREAS, without comprehensive clean energy legislation,
America will face significant global competition for clean
energy development that could weaken the United States economy
and threaten American innovation; and
WHEREAS, thousands of businesses have joined together to call for comprehensive federal clean energy legislation including, among others, members of the United States Climate Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, studies show that a majority of voters see climate change as a real, immediate, and serious threat; believe that efforts to reduce greenhouse gases will create jobs; favor action to reduce carbon emissions; and support the key elements of the American Clean Energy and Security Act; and
WHEREAS, a national statutory framework for clean energy will provide a predictable regulatory framework that will spur innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of congressional action, the Environmental Protection Agency has announced its intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules rather than legislation; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States Senate are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the historic opportunity to enact comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that will strengthen our national security, create clean energy jobs, and reduce pollution; 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 United States Congress is urged to pass comprehensive clean energy, jobs, and climate change legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is urged to include in legislation:

(1) A unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

(2) Protection for low and moderate income Americans from increased energy costs;

(3) Substantial investments in energy efficiency; and

(4) Support for alternative sources of energy including wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, and bio-fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is urged to pass national clean energy and climate change legislation.
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1 legislation that does not preempt state legislative efforts to
2 control carbon emissions and to advance clean energy
3 innovations; and
4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States
7 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
8 Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional
9 delegation.

OFFERED BY:

[Signatures]

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