
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO DIRECT ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGIES IN THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the increased use of renewable energy appears to
2 create a conflict of interest for electric utilities that own
3 fossil fuel-based electricity generation facilities; and
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5 WHEREAS, replacing firm power fossil fuel-based electricity
6 generation facilities owned and operated by investor-owned
7 electric utilities with firm renewable resources developed and
8 operated by independent power producers could impact the overall
9 profitability and viability of those electric utilities; and
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11 WHEREAS, the future success of electric utilities in Hawaii
12 depends on their ability to adapt to and incorporate new
13 technologies, and to integrate, operate, and manage the heavy
14 penetration of renewable energy generation on an evolving
15 electricity grid system; and
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17 WHEREAS, currently, electric utilities act through their
18 own resource planning processes to determine the timing and type
19 of new electricity generation capacity introduced to the
20 electric grid. Consequently the electric utilities' resource
21 planning processes have become a de facto state energy planning
22 process as well as a key part of the electric utilities' efforts
23 to meet the mandates of Hawaii's renewable portfolio standards
24 law under part V of chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS);
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, the State's focus on renewable electricity
28 generation must be based on technically sound, commercially
29 available, and cost-effective resources; and
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31 WHEREAS, the State's focus on renewable electricity
32 generation must recognize each island's unique endowment of



1 resources and potential contribution to Hawaii's clean energy
2 future; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities
7 Commission direct that the integrated resource plans of electric
8 utilities examine a strategy that replaces existing fossil fuel-
9 based electricity generation plants with renewable energy
10 resources; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
13 direct that the integrated resource plans of investor-owned
14 electric utilities examine a strategy that develops excess firm
15 or intermittent electricity to be transmitted between islands,
16 including plans to develop undersea electricity transmission
17 cables to support transmission of electricity between the
18 islands; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
21 direct that the integrated resource plans of investor-owned
22 electric utilities consider the following resources:
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- 24 (1) Electricity generated using geothermal steam on
25 identified geothermal resources to replace or mitigate
26 the use of fossil fuel-based electricity generation
27 facilities;
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- 29 (2) Hydrogen and other available energy storage
30 technologies used as a source of stored energy to
31 stabilize the grid when necessary; and
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- 33 (3) Electricity generated by waste-to-energy facilities to
34 serve as an untapped fuel source; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
37 is requested to examine:
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- 39 (1) Its avoided cost calculation methodology;
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- 41 (2) Ways to maximize the use of distributed generation,
42 including an examination of the appropriateness of
43 current circuit penetration threshold levels for the
44 interconnection of distributed generation resources;



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- 2 (3) The increased use of energy efficiency programs and
- 3 technology to meet the goals of the energy-efficiency
- 4 portfolio standards under section 269-96, HRS;
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- 6 (4) Ways to minimize the curtailment of renewable energy
- 7 resources; and
- 8
- 9 (5) Ways to modernize the State's electrical grids; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
12 is requested to include in its annual reports for 2013 and 2014,
13 prepared pursuant to section 269-5, HRS, actions taken by the
14 Commission, as well as findings, recommendations, and any
15 proposed legislation necessary to further the purposes of this
16 Concurrent Resolution; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
20 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

