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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN REVIEWING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES BY NEXTERA ENERGY, INC.

1           WHEREAS, NextEra Energy, Inc.'s subsidiary, Florida Power  
2 and Light, is the largest electrical power utility in Florida;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, the company's business model in Florida  
6 principally relies on selling power generated by older nuclear  
7 power plants and those using liquefied natural gas, with  
8 relatively little renewable energy, as reported by the Fort  
9 Lauderdale Sun Sentinel; and  
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11           WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that the company has a  
12 history of opposing competition and leveraging political  
13 influence to favor the interests of the company's shareholders  
14 over the interests of ratepayers; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the company has aggressively blocked competition  
17 from rooftop solar adoption in Florida, as reported by the  
18 Associated Press; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the company has spent millions of dollars in  
21 political contributions and funding for campaigns to block  
22 federal and state regulations that would promote utility  
23 competition, as reported by the Washington Post; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the company is one of the top political donors in  
26 Florida, giving more than \$7,000,000 in political contributions  
27 in the 2014 election cycle alone, as reported by the Tampa Bay  
28 Times; and  
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30           WHEREAS, Florida utilities have been reported to hire, on  
31 average, one lobbyist for every two legislators, as reported by  
32 the Orlando Sentinel; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the company has a history of giving former top  
3 staffers and public utility commissioners lucrative utility  
4 jobs, as evidenced by its hiring of five former Florida public  
5 utility commissioners, as reported by the Tampa Bay Times; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the company used its political clout to remove  
8 Florida public utility commissioners who denied a widely  
9 publicized rate increase that would benefit the utility, as  
10 reported by the Citrus County Chronicle and the Orlando  
11 Sentinel; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the company successfully lobbied to reduce energy  
14 efficiency goals in Florida from two-hundred and twenty-nine  
15 gigawatt hours to four gigawatt hours by 2019, as reported by  
16 the Tampa Bay Times; and  
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18 WHEREAS, public interest groups have raised concerns about  
19 the company's shifting to Florida ratepayers the significant  
20 financial risk and costs associated with the construction of  
21 nuclear power plants, renewable energy projects, and fracking  
22 for natural gas, as reported by The Palm Beach Post and the  
23 Tampa Bay Times; and  
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25 WHEREAS, NextEra Energy, Inc., has begun a process to take  
26 over Hawaii's local utilities on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii islands;  
27 and  
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29 WHEREAS, after announcing its proposed takeover of Hawaii's  
30 utilities, NextEra Energy, Inc., has acted in a manner that does  
31 not reflect the good faith that had been promised to ensure that  
32 the acquisition would benefit Hawaii's ratepayers; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the utilities have aggressively opposed virtually  
35 all stakeholder participation in the Public Utilities Commission  
36 docket proceeding regarding the proposed takeover; and  
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38 WHEREAS, once stakeholders were admitted to the Public  
39 Utilities Commission proceeding, the utilities vigorously  
40 proposed limiting discovery on the merger proceedings to the  
41 detriment of broader public transparency and oversight; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the utilities announced their intention to prevent  
2 solar customers from interconnecting to the electrical grid  
3 unless the Public Utilities Commission enacted sweeping policy  
4 reforms benefiting the utility; and

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6 WHEREAS, the modern utility business model, which adapts to  
7 new technology and distributed generation, is moving away from  
8 the vertically integrated business model of NextEra Energy,  
9 Inc., and toward making utilities the transmitters of power,  
10 rather than the generators of it; now, therefore,

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2015, that the Public Utilities Commission is  
15 requested to protect the public interest in reviewing the  
16 proposed acquisition of Hawaiian Electric Industries by NextEra  
17 Energy, Inc., to determine:

- 18  
19 (1) Whether NextEra Energy Inc., is likely to act in the  
20 long-term best interests of Hawaii ratepayers; and  
21  
22 (2) Whether this transaction is in the long-term public  
23 interest, including the State's ability to achieve its  
24 renewable energy goals; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
27 is requested to consider, at a minimum, imposing strict  
28 conditions to ensure the bedrock principles of:

- 29  
30 (1) Reliability;  
31  
32 (2) Reasonable rates;  
33  
34 (3) Competition and customer choice; and  
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36 (4) Protecting local jobs and economic benefits to the  
37 State; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
40 is requested to submit findings and recommendations, including  
41 any proposed legislation, to the House of Representatives not



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1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
2 Session of 2016; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public  
6 Utilities Commission.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 13 2015

