

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INITIATING AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE RENEWABLE WIND ENERGY PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, section 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
2 the achievement of one hundred percent renewable energy
3 generation, the highest percentage of all states in the United
4 States, by December 31, 2045; and

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6 WHEREAS, realizing a high penetration of as-available
7 energy necessitates using a diverse range of renewable
8 technologies; and

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10 WHEREAS, utility-scale wind energy can supply clean energy
11 when solar photovoltaic and other technologies are not producing
12 energy; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Island of Oahu offers few remaining acceptable
15 locations for utility-scale wind turbines because of limited
16 land area, limited wind resources, and widespread residential
17 development; and

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19 WHEREAS, floating offshore wind generation has the
20 potential to generate cost-effective, clean energy when solar
21 energy equipment is not producing energy, by utilizing strong
22 offshore wind resources; and

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24 WHEREAS, floating offshore wind generation provides the
25 additional benefits of occupying minimal land area and operating
26 at considerable distances from homes; and

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28 WHEREAS, pursuant to title 26 United States Code section
29 48, time is of the essence to secure the federal business energy



1 investment tax credit, which would provide a substantial energy
2 cost savings to Hawaii residents for wind energy projects that
3 are sufficiently advanced by 2019; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission approves and
6 oversees the energy procurement process and finally determines
7 and approves such procurements that are reasonable and in the
8 best interests of Hawaii's electric ratepayers; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Electric Company is responsible for
11 procuring renewable energy generation, in what is typically a
12 multi-year process; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
15 responsible for leasing areas of federal waters for siting
16 potential offshore wind projects; and
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18 WHEREAS, the United States Navy uses areas of the ocean
19 around Oahu to support its mission of military readiness; and
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21 WHEREAS, there are a number of issues that must be
22 discussed and addressed between these and other state and
23 federal agencies that currently utilize or have jurisdiction
24 over offshore ocean waters; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the State Energy Office within the Department of
27 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is the appropriate
28 agency to facilitate discussions to bring various federal and
29 state entities together to find solutions that:
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- 31 (1) Resolve conflicts and evaluate various uses of
32 offshore waters, including offshore wind energy
33 projects;
- 34 (2) Remove barriers for greater renewable energy
35 penetration and efficiency;
- 36 (3) Attract Hawaii-based clean energy research,
37 development, and investments; and
- 38 (4) Align government laws, rules, and regulations;
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1 now, therefore,
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3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
4 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
5 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Energy
6 Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development,
7 and Tourism is urged to facilitate discussions with the United
8 States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Pacific OCS Region,
9 United States Navy, United States Department of Defense-United
10 States Pacific Command, Public Utilities Commission, Department
11 of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiian Electric Company, and
12 offshore wind energy leaders to provide recommendations on how
13 the State can promote, initiate, and support the development of
14 renewable energy from offshore wind projects in time to utilize
15 the federal business energy investment tax credit; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Electric Company,
18 Inc.; Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.; and Maui Electric
19 Company, Limited; are requested to cooperate with the State
20 Energy Office in these discussions; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office report
23 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later
24 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
25 of 2018; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander, United
29 States Pacific Command; Commander, United States Navy, Navy
30 Region Hawaii; Regional Director of the United States Bureau of
31 Ocean Energy Management Pacific OCS Region; Governor; Director
32 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Administrator of
33 the State Energy Office; Chairperson of the Public Utilities
34 Commission; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
35 Resources; and heads of the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.;
36 Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.; and Maui Electric Company,
37 Limited.
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OFFERED BY:

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S.C.R. NO. 122

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