WHEREAS, the ocean represents a vast natural energy resource in the form of waves that generate energy; and

WHEREAS, wave energy is recognized as one of the most consistent sources of renewable power available; and

WHEREAS, the World Energy Council estimates that energy equivalent to twice the world's electricity production could be harvested from the world's oceans; if less than one-tenth of one per cent of the renewable energy within the oceans could be converted into electricity, the present world demand for energy would be satisfied more than five times over; and

WHEREAS, wave energy is presently being used by countries that have extensive coastlines, such as Great Britain, Australia, and Spain; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a clean environment, renewable resources produce other public benefits, including reduced dependency on foreign fuels and economic development, resulting in new jobs and increased state and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet Hawaii's renewable energy goals, the State should look to alternative energy models that are innovative and better utilize the unique geography and environment of Hawaii, including wave energy; and

WHEREAS, wave energy production in Hawaii would enhance the State's reputation as a national leader of renewable resource and ocean technology and coastal resource management; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to conduct a study on the ability of using wave energy production to meet the State's renewable energy goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit the study to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 02 2018