
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND CREATE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, renewable energy and agriculture can coexist and
2 contribute to the State's self-sufficiency, energy security, and
3 resilience; and

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5 WHEREAS, the State currently imports fossil fuels and is
6 highly dependent on foreign imports; and

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8 WHEREAS, Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established
9 the electric renewable portfolio standard of one hundred percent
10 of net electricity sales by 2045, and the Governor has set a
11 goal of doubling local food production by 2020; and

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13 WHEREAS, utility-scale solar developments in Hawaii need to
14 increase to reach the one hundred percent renewable portfolio
15 standard and be able to provide stable, low-cost energy,
16 especially for low to moderate income ratepayers and small
17 businesses; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State has not yet developed a long-term
20 strategic plan to achieve one hundred percent renewable
21 electricity to achieve the State's renewable portfolio standard
22 and policies; and

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24 WHEREAS, renewable energy developments such as utility-
25 scale solar developments will require thousands of acres of flat
26 land that are close to major transmission lines to keep
27 infrastructure costs low; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not yet
2 developed a strategic plan that incorporates renewable energy
3 development in its plans and policies to increase local food
4 production; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State has thousands of acres of agricultural
7 land that is classified by the Land Study Bureau with B, C, D,
8 and E land-based productivity ratings, but these lands are
9 fallow and not being utilized for farming; and

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11 WHEREAS, new agricultural technology creates updated
12 requirements for land use that are not dependent on the
13 seemingly outdated Land Study Bureau's land-based rating system;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, the Netherlands has embraced new agricultural
17 technology, shifted away from land-based farming, and utilizes
18 low cost renewable energy to power greenhouse and vertical
19 farms, leading the Netherlands to become one of the largest
20 producers of agricultural exports in the world; and

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22 WHEREAS, the majority of Hawaii's commercially farmed
23 produce is grown on lands owned by non-farmers who issue short-
24 term leases to farmers, who therefore are unable to make the
25 capital investments necessary to upgrade and modernize Hawaii's
26 food production; and

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28 WHEREAS, the State must entertain new alternatives to
29 current agricultural operations that protect and promote
30 agriculture in a manner that assures long-term secure access to
31 land and supports capital investments to increase agricultural
32 production; and

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34 WHEREAS, there is a nexus between land use for renewable
35 solar energy developments and growing the State's agricultural
36 industry; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
39 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
40 Representatives concurring, that the State Energy Office, in
41 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, is requested
42 to create and implement a strategic plan that encompasses



1 increasing renewable energy and local food production in a
2 symbiotic relationship; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested
5 to include findings and recommendations related to the
6 following:

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- 8 (1) Land use policy initiatives;
- 9
- 10 (2) Protected agriculture;
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- 12 (3) Agricultural technology;
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- 14 (4) Necessary recommendations for legislation at the state
15 and county levels to implement agricultural technology
16 and energy developments on the same lands;
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- 18 (5) Identification and implementation of mutually-
19 beneficial relationships between agriculture and
20 energy; and
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- 22 (6) Identification of potential conflicting relationships
23 and solutions to those conflicts; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office, in
26 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, is requested
27 to create an economic impact report based on the successful
28 implementation of the strategic plan; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is
31 requested to submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the
33 strategic plan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
34 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is
37 requested to submit a report of its findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the
39 economic impact report, to the Legislature no later than twenty
40 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the
3 State Energy Office and the Chairperson of the Board of
4 Agriculture.

