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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING HAWAII'S LANDOWNERS, INVESTORS, COUNTY GOVERNMENTS,  
AND REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONVERSION OF FUEL CROPS FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION, AND  
REQUESTING THE HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii relies on imported oil for  
2 more than 89 percent of its primary energy and is the most oil-  
3 dependent state in the nation; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Hawaii's reliance on imported energy continues to  
6 grow despite record oil prices; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the price of imported petroleum, diesel, and low-  
9 sulfur fuel oil have remained at all-time highs since April  
10 2005; and  
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12           WHEREAS, Hawaii residents pay the highest electricity rates  
13 in the United States; and  
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15           WHEREAS, agriculture has been an integral part of Hawaii's  
16 cultural, economic, and social fabric since the Hawaiians first  
17 populated these islands; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the amount of land under cultivation in Hawaii has  
20 declined by almost 135,000 acres or about 40 percent in the last  
21 20 years; and  
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23           WHEREAS, much of the land left fallow is eroding into  
24 Hawaii's near-shore waters and is degrading Hawaii's coral reef  
25 ecosystems; and  
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27           WHEREAS, maintaining open space through agriculture is  
28 essential to the quality of life of residents and the health of  
29 the tourism industry in Hawaii; and  
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1           WHEREAS, certain crops grown specifically for use as  
2 environmentally friendly fuels, also referred to as biomass, can  
3 be used as an energy-efficient, low-carbon source of electricity  
4 generation; and  
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6           WHEREAS, high oil prices also make the alternative of fuel  
7 crops and electricity generation from biomass economically  
8 attractive; and  
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10           WHEREAS, biomass can also be used to derive alternate fuels  
11 such as ethanol and methanol, which will serve to reduce our  
12 dependence on imported petroleum and the export of local dollars  
13 out of our economy; and  
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15           WHEREAS, direct combustion of fuel crops provides an  
16 opportunity to burn fuel crops with municipal solid waste-to-  
17 energy, further improving the financial attractiveness of  
18 burning fuel crops alone; and  
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20           WHEREAS, growing fuel crops can significantly contribute to  
21 the maintenance of open space, creation of jobs in agriculture,  
22 reduction of Hawaii's dependence on imported petroleum,  
23 reduction of carbon dioxide buildup through carbon  
24 sequestration, and an increase in Hawaii's energy security; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum was created to  
27 facilitate the achievement of the preferred energy vision for  
28 Hawaii and provide a forum where decision-making options for  
29 smart energy solutions can be presented; now, therefore,  
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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State  
34 Legislature strongly encourages Hawaii's landowners, investors,  
35 county governments, and regulated electric utilities to pursue  
36 the development of fuel crops and the conversion of fuel crops  
37 to generate electricity; and  
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39           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum  
40 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature at least 20  
41 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007 with  
42 recommendations on:  
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- (1) Financial incentives that may be necessary to stimulate development of fuel crops and the conversion of fuel crops to generate electricity, including incentives to reduce the risk of falling oil prices for investors;
- (2) The most suitable locations for undertaking biomass projects independent from, or in conjunction with, municipal solid waste-to-energy programs;
- (3) Options for leasing state land for fuel crop development;
- (4) Opportunities for state and county governments and private investors to secure federal grants to support the development of fuel crops and the conversion of fuel crops to generate electricity; and
- (5) The feasibility of setting up a revolving fund as a mechanism to provide incentives necessary to stimulate investment in fuel corps and the conversion of fuel crops to generate electricity;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, mayors of each county, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, and chief executive officers of each electric utility company in Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

*Calvin K. Iy*  


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*[Signature]*  


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*Helene H. Hale*  


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*Cindy Evans*  


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