
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES BOARD TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE AT THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY'S SCIENCE AND OCEAN TECHNOLOGY PARK AT KAILUA-KONA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Act 7, Session Laws of Hawaii 1963, provided for
2 the establishment of foreign-trade zones in accordance with
3 federal law; and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's foreign-trade zone No. 9, at Honolulu
6 Harbor was authorized by the United States Foreign-Trade Zones
7 Board in February, 1965; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are currently seven active foreign-trade
10 zone sites throughout the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's strong economy, a significant rise in
13 petroleum prices, and increased fueling activity pushed overall
14 foreign-trade zone activity up more than eighty per cent in the
15 past two years and has resulted in a total value of
16 \$6,500,000,000 in the past fiscal year, in merchandise received
17 and forwarded in all activated foreign-trade zone sites in
18 Hawaii; and

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20 WHEREAS, in 2005, two hundred seventy-eight companies in
21 the State used the foreign-trade zone program, handling one
22 hundred eighty-eight types of merchandise from thirty-three
23 countries; and

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25 WHEREAS, the seven active foreign-trade zone sites provide
26 direct and indirect employment for approximately two thousand
27 four hundred persons and last year boasted capital improvements
28 exceeding \$31,000,000 and exports of approximately \$632,000,000;
29 and



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2 WHEREAS, business activities such as manufacturing,
3 assembly, storage, distribution exhibiting, testing, sampling,
4 and modifying of goods or products, or both, may be undertaken
5 in a foreign-trade zone without deposit of government fees; and
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7 WHEREAS, a foreign-trade zone is an attractive and
8 effective incentive for economic development and the creation of
9 job opportunities; and
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11 WHEREAS, it is the mission of Hawaii's foreign-trade zone
12 program to make the benefits of the program available to as many
13 qualifying companies as possible; and
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15 WHEREAS, the county of Hawaii is actively pursuing
16 strategies to expand and diversify its economic base and
17 currently has sufficient natural and infrastructural resources
18 to facilitate a substantial increase in business activity; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
21 is one of Hawaii's most successful economic development projects
22 and its tenants have had success in dramatically increasing
23 Hawaii's exports, primarily due to the growth of deep seawater
24 bottling companies and aquaculture firms; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii foreign-trade zone program has been
27 working closely with officials from the Natural Energy
28 Laboratory of Hawaii Authority and the county of Hawaii
29 Department of Research and Development to help Hawaii businesses
30 compete in external markets and have identified businesses at
31 the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's eight
32 hundred seventy-acre science and ocean technology park in
33 Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii as potential new users for
34 the program; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2006, that the Department of Business, Economic Development,
39 and Tourism and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii
40 Authority are requested to continue their efforts to seek
41 authorization from the United States Foreign-Trade Zones Board
42 to establish, operate, and maintain a foreign-trade zone at the
43 Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's eight hundred



1 seventy-acre science and ocean technology park at Kailua-Kona on
2 the island of Hawaii; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Foreign-Trade
5 Zones Board is requested to act favorably upon the application
6 relating to a foreign trade zone submitted by the Department of
7 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Natural
8 Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
12 Development, and Tourism; Chief Executive Officer of the Natural
13 Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority; and the Executive
14 Secretary of the United States Foreign-Trade Zones Board.
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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Evans

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