
HOUSE 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



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, that this body strongly encourages Hawaii's landowners,
34 investors, county governments, and regulated electric utilities
35 to pursue the development of fuel crops and the conversion of
36 fuel crops to generate electricity; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum
39 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature at least 20
40 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007 with
41 recommendations on:



