

MAR 15 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII TO CONVENE A GROUP OF INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS TO INVESTIGATE AND RECOMMEND WAYS THAT HAWAI`I CAN ACHIEVE GREATER ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai`i is the most remote, inhabited island chain
2 in the world; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is over two thousand miles from California,
5 over three thousand miles from Japan, over four thousand miles
6 from China, and over five thousand miles from the Philippines;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawai`i depends on commercial maritime imports for
10 an estimated eighty percent of its consumer goods; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawai`i depends on imported oil for over
13 ninety-two percent of its energy needs; and

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15 WHEREAS, no other state relies as heavily on oil for its
16 energy needs as Hawai`i; and

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18 WHEREAS, Hawai`i's isolation and reliance on imported
19 consumer products and oil make its economy extremely susceptible
20 to outside forces; and

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22 WHEREAS, an oil supply disruption would effect every aspect
23 of our way of life by impacting critical necessities such as the
24 delivery of health care and the food supply; and

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26 WHEREAS, Hawai`i's remote geographic location makes timely
27 emergency deliveries of petroleum reserves difficult; and

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29 WHEREAS, for many of Hawai`i's residents, quality of life
30 issues are also impacted by the State's ongoing dependence on
31 other outside resources; and

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1 WHEREAS, this exemplifies why it is essential for the sake
2 of Hawai'i's security to take action to help Hawai'i achieve
3 greater economic independence; and
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5 WHEREAS, one way to achieve greater economic independence
6 is to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by encouraging
7 alternative energy production; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has yet to fully realize certain
10 indigenous resources such as biomass, hydroelectric power, wave
11 energy, solar and wind power, that it can utilize for energy
12 production; and
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14 WHEREAS, sustainable agriculture has been an ongoing,
15 expanding industry in Hawai'i for the last fifty years; and
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17 WHEREAS, multiple avenues for economic independence can and
18 should be studied and pursued; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
22 that the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is requested to convene a
23 group of interested stakeholders, including individuals from the
24 business and private sectors, to investigate and recommend ways
25 that Hawai'i can achieve greater economic independence; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chamber of Commerce of
28 Hawaii is requested to submit a report, including any proposed
29 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
30 to the convening of Regular Session of 2007; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Chamber of
34 Commerce of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: 