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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO INVESTIGATE  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS TO POWER WATER PUMPS IN THE  
WAIKOLU TUNNEL OF THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System provides water to  
2 over 2,000 acres of crops at any given time and is the lifeblood  
3 of the Molokai farming community; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, water used in the Molokai Irrigation System is  
6 carried through a five-mile tunnel that runs from Waikolu Valley  
7 on the north side of the island to the south side of the island  
8 where it travels through pipes for five miles into the 1.2-  
9 billion-gallon reservoir below Kualapuu town; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System depends on five  
12 electrical pumps to extract irrigation water from Waikolu Valley  
13 and send it through the Waikolu Tunnel; and  
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15 WHEREAS, only two of the five pumps can be operated at one  
16 time due to exorbitant energy costs; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the electricity rates charged on the island of  
19 Molokai are some of the highest in the nation, and the Molokai  
20 Irrigation System is the single largest user of electricity on  
21 the island; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, over 95 percent of the cost of operating the  
24 Molokai Irrigation System is spent on electricity, estimated at  
25 between \$35,000 and \$45,000 per month; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, electricity rate increases are being proposed by  
28 Maui Electric Company Ltd., due to the high cost of oil; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Mele Carroll

SP7.02 ~~Q-4.2~~

Kirk Caldwell

Roland D. Swan III  
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