
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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



1 WHEREAS, the Molokai Irrigation System could be more
 2 efficient if it were to use a combination of alternative energy
 3 systems and electricity, and decrease the amount of electricity
 4 that would need to be purchased as a result; and

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 6 WHEREAS, Molokai farmers would stand to increase their
 7 returns if the Molokai Irrigation System were more efficient and
 8 water were less costly; now, therefore,

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 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 12 Session of 2007, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
 13 requested to investigate and make recommendations on the
 14 feasibility, cost-benefits, and other issues of using an
 15 alternative energy system to power water pumps in the Molokai
 16 Irrigation System through the Waikolu Tunnel; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 19 Bureau is requested to submit a written report to the
 20 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
 21 Regular Session of 2008; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Legislative
 25 Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:

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