

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM CONDUCT A STUDY TO CREATE A ONE-STOP PERMIT  
SHOP FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Hawaii's dependency on  
2 petroleum is the highest in the Nation, accounting for  
3 approximately ninety per cent of the State's energy needs; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high petroleum dependency makes the  
6 consumers extremely vulnerable to any oil embargo, supply  
7 disruption, international market dysfunction, and many other  
8 factors beyond our control; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the State Department of Business, Economic  
11 Development and Tourism has committed to energy objectives  
12 toward achieving dependable, efficient and economical statewide  
13 energy systems, increased self-sufficiency, greater energy  
14 security and reduction of green house gas emissions; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in 2001, the Legislature passed and the Governor  
17 signed into law, Act 272, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, to  
18 recognize the economic, environmental, and fuel diversity  
19 benefits of renewable energy resources and the need to encourage  
20 the establishment of a market for renewable energy in Hawaii  
21 using the State's renewable energy resources; and  
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23 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Legislature passed and the Governor  
24 signed into law, Act 240, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, in order  
25 to provide a framework for energy self-sufficiency; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the State has committed to a renewable energy  
28 standard, where twenty per cent of electricity sold will be  
29 generated from renewable resources by the end of 2020; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the State has sought to encourage private sector  
32 development of renewable energy projects; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Integrated Energy Policy Report of  
3 1991, found that the permits and approvals required for the  
4 development and siting of energy facilities, can take up to  
5 seven years for a single project; and  
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7 WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are often complex,  
8 large-scale undertakings requiring a number of permits; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes a need to streamline  
11 the permitting process to provide predictability and to  
12 encourage private companies to commit substantial amounts of  
13 capital, time, and effort necessary to develop such projects;  
14 and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that a streamlined and  
17 expedited process should not entail the elimination or reduction  
18 in environmental protection or public participation in the  
19 process; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that in order to  
22 achieve an expedited, streamlined process that retains adequate  
23 public oversight, entails investing in additional personnel; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that such projects may  
26 need further incentives to become established in the State, such  
27 as grants, tax credits, and other assistance; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that renewable energy  
30 projects can provide substantial and long-term benefits to the  
31 State and that development of renewable energy projects would  
32 further State policies of developing indigenous renewable energy  
33 resources and decreasing Hawaii's dependency on imported fossil  
34 fuels; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to advancing projects  
37 that support renewable energy technology in order to meet the  
38 State's renewable energy portfolio standards; and  
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40 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that Hawaii's energy  
41 situation provides both challenges and opportunities, and these  
42 challenges can be bridged by opportunities to partner with the  
43 private sector; and



1 WHEREAS, special assistance may be required from the State  
2 to streamline the permitting process providing further  
3 incentives toward meeting the State's energy objectives of  
4 achieving dependable, efficient and economical statewide energy  
5 systems, increased energy self-sufficiency, greater energy  
6 security, and reduction of green house gas emissions; now,  
7 therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
12 Business, Economic Development and Tourism is requested to  
13 conduct a study on the feasibility of creating a one-stop permit  
14 shop to expedite permit processing for renewable energy projects  
15 and to recommend changes, if any, that are needed to establish  
16 this streamlined permit process; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
19 Economic Development and Tourism is requested to submit its  
20 recommendations and draft legislation, if necessary, to the  
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
22 the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted the Director of the  
26 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.  
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OFFERED BY:

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*Hullman*  
*T.S.D. J.*

