
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY
THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PLACING HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING
DEVICES ALONG MOUNTAIN STREAMS.

1 WHEREAS, hydroelectric power presents a promising,
2 sustainable source of energy that can increase renewable energy
3 generation in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State's tropical climate and immense mountain
6 ranges produce significant amounts of rainfall that travels from
7 the mountains to the sea, making ideal conditions for
8 hydroelectric energy generation along those waterways; and
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10 WHEREAS, the construction and use of hydroelectric
11 generating devices, however, might impact negatively on fresh
12 water ecosystems and aquatic habitats of native or endangered
13 species; and
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15 WHEREAS, while most of the land along rivers, streams, and
16 smaller waterways are state-owned agricultural or conservation
17 land, private landowners, trusts, and other entities that own
18 adjacent land may create jurisdictional issues; and
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20 WHEREAS, while constructing and maintaining hydroelectric
21 generating devices might create the potential for significant
22 monetary and environmental costs, the benefit of renewable
23 energy production could outweigh the upfront expenses and any
24 negligible environmental impacts; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
29 Natural Resources is requested to study the potential impacts of
30 placing hydroelectric generating devices along mountain streams;
31 and



H.C.R. NO. 189

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to include in the study:

- (1) The fiscal impact of constructing and maintaining hydroelectric generating devices along mountain streams;
- (2) The potential harm to endangered species in the surrounding areas that may arise in relation to the placement of hydroelectric generating devices; and
- (3) Any jurisdictional issues that may arise with respect to private property and water rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit a written report of its finding and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 17 2009

