
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM TO PREPARE AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION.

1 WHEREAS, in January 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding was
2 signed between the State of Hawaii and the United States
3 Department of Energy, creating the Hawaii Clean Energy
4 Initiative (HCEI), which seeks to transform Hawaii's energy
5 portfolio into a predominately renewable energy mix, moving away
6 from Hawaii's over-reliance on imported fossil fuels; and
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8 WHEREAS, the current objective of the HCEI of 70 percent
9 clean energy by the year 2030 is comprised of a 4,365 GWh (30
10 percent) electricity reduction through energy efficiency and
11 5,820 GWh (40 percent) electricity generation through renewable
12 energy resources; and
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14 WHEREAS, nuclear power is not considered in the portfolio
15 of options by the HCEI and it may be necessary for the
16 Legislature to make the determination whether nuclear power is
17 truly a viable option as an energy source or whether it is an
18 unnecessary distraction from the overall objectives of the HCEI;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, to make sound policy decisions, legislators will
22 need to understand the technical, economic, environmental,
23 regulatory, and political issues that must be evaluated and
24 addressed if nuclear power is to be seriously considered in
25 Hawaii's future energy mix; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Energy Policy
30 Forum prepare an interdisciplinary study of the benefits and



1 risks of nuclear power generation in Hawaii, focusing on, but
2 not limited to, the following critical issues:

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- 4 (1) Cost: to include, but not be limited to, a discussion
5 on construction costs, operational costs, including
6 the cost of securing a facility, waste disposal, and
7 decommissioning a plant;
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- 9 (2) Safety: to include, but not be limited to, a
10 discussion of the present-day standard of less than
11 one serious release of radioactivity accident for 50
12 years from fuel cycle activity, and the extent to
13 which nuclear facilities should be hardened to prevent
14 possible terrorist attacks and its implications for a
15 Hawaii facility and the emissions from a nuclear
16 plant's routine operations;
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- 18 (3) Fuel Availability and Waste Disposal: a discussion of
19 the benefits and risks of moving Hawaii's reliance
20 from one imported fuel source (petroleum) to another
21 imported fuel source (uranium), the disposal of the
22 spent fuel, recognizing that no country has yet
23 successfully implemented a system for the disposal of
24 this waste, and its repercussions for a Hawaii
25 facility;
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- 27 (4) Proliferation: an evaluation of state safeguards and
28 assessment of national and international safeguards to
29 ensure that deployment of reprocessing and enrichment
30 are restricted to an acceptable incremental
31 proliferation risk; and
- 32
- 33 (5) Local Challenges: a specific discussion on challenges
34 that are unique to Hawaii, including our small grid
35 capacity, our limited land areas which are
36 inconsistent with the required evacuation zones for
37 nuclear plants, the issues involved in integrating
38 nuclear power into distributive power systems, and the
39 ramifications of the need to periodically take nuclear
40 plants off-line for servicing;

41
42
43 and
44



H.C.R. NO. 196

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Hawaii
3 Energy Policy Forum, Director of the Department of Business,
4 Economic Development, and Tourism, State Consumer Advocate,
5 Hawaiian Electric Company, Maui Electric Company, Hawaii
6 Electric Light Company, and Kauai Island Utility Cooperative.
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OFFERED BY:

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