
HOUSE 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, that the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum prepare an
30 interdisciplinary study of the benefits and risks of nuclear
31 power generation in Hawaii, focusing on, but not limited to, the
32 following critical issues:



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

39
40 and
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42



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

Humana Maita

[Signature]

MAR 17 2009

