
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE SUSPENSION OF ETHANOL GAS REQUIREMENTS IN HAWAI'I
UNTIL HAWAI'I-GROWN ETHANOL IS AVAILABLE.

1 WHEREAS, ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is a renewable fuel
2 often produced from agricultural feedstock such as corn,
3 although other grains like wheat or barley can also be used; and
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5 WHEREAS, the use of ethanol as a fuel has various
6 environmental benefits such as reductions in pollution, smog-
7 forming emissions, and greenhouse gases; and
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9 WHEREAS, although ethanol offers these environmental
10 benefits, there are some drawbacks to its use as a fuel source;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, some of these drawbacks include higher production
14 costs that increase consumer costs, the lower energy
15 availability in ethanol relative to gasoline, and the effects on
16 the global food market of producing fuel from food sources; and
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18 WHEREAS, in the past year, the price of grain on the global
19 market has increased by 83 percent; and
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21 WHEREAS, according to the Los Angeles Times, the World Food
22 Program of the United Nations has been hit so hard by these
23 skyrocketing grain prices that it may cut off food aid to some
24 of the world's poorest countries even as global starvation
25 worsens; and
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27 WHEREAS, using food to create fuel is also creating higher
28 food prices for Americans; and
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30 WHEREAS, it takes the same amount of corn, one of the major
31 food sources being used to produce ethanol, to feed one person



1 for an entire year, as it does to make enough ethanol for one
2 tank of gasoline; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawai'i passed Act 257 in 1997, requiring that
5 gasoline sold within the state contain ten percent ethanol by
6 volume as an environmental initiative and to stimulate local
7 ethanol production, as well as the economy; and
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9 WHEREAS, some research indicates that making ethanol from
10 cellulosic materials, such as switchgrass and sugarcane, is a
11 better alternative than grain-based ethanol, saves more
12 petroleum, reduces a greater amount of greenhouse gas emissions,
13 and may be more environmentally friendly; and
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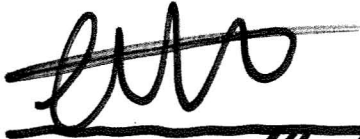
15 WHEREAS, to date, no ethanol production facility has been
16 built in Hawai'i and ethanol for use in Hawai'i is shipped into
17 our state; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2009, that this body supports the suspension of ethanol gas
22 requirements in Hawai'i until such time that a locally grown
23 supply of biofuel is available and ethanol is able to be
24 produced within the state; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the
27 exemption of aircraft and two-stroke engines from ethanol
28 requirements; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body further supports the
31 creation of tax incentives for the modification of existing,
32 locally owned sugar plantations into ethanol production
33 facilities, creating quality jobs for Hawai'i's working families;
34 and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

