

FEB 16 2010

S.R. NO. 39

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES JOBS AND INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, HEIGHTENS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, POSITIONS THE UNITED STATES TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CLEAN ENERGY, AND ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT PREEMPTING STATES' RIGHTS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS AND TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, the United States currently spends approximately
2 \$1,000,000,000 a day to import oil, and by 2030, the United
3 States Department of Energy estimates, that without
4 comprehensive clean energy legislation, the country's reliance
5 on foreign oil could cost \$8,500,000,000,000; and
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7 WHEREAS, under the United States' current energy policy,
8 American wealth is being transferred to nations that are rich
9 with oil; however, many of those nations are politically
10 unstable or unfriendly to the United States; and
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12 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change increases political
13 and social instability in poorer regions of the world, thus
14 presenting potential security challenges for the United States;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate of two
18 hundred fifty per cent faster than the rest of the economy; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
21 Administration projects clean energy job growth of up to two
22 million new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy
23 legislation; and
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25 WHEREAS, without comprehensive clean energy legislation,
26 America will face significant global competition for clean
27 energy development that could weaken the United States economy
28 and threaten American innovation; and
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1 WHEREAS, thousands of businesses have joined together to
2 call for comprehensive federal clean energy legislation
3 including, among others, members of the United States Climate
4 Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and
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6 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, in the absence of
7 comprehensive federal clean energy legislation, the states have
8 become the true "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean
9 energy policies; and
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11 WHEREAS, many states have adopted renewable energy
12 standards and goals that require a significant percentage of a
13 state's electricity to be generated from non-fossil fuel
14 renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydropower,
15 biomass, and biofuels, which have led to significant job growth
16 in the clean energy sector of the national economy; and
17

18 WHEREAS, in 2008, Hawaii adopted the Hawaii Clean Energy
19 Initiative which supports and encourages the rapid development
20 of renewable energy; and
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22 WHEREAS, wave energy is a potent and readily available form
23 of clean energy for Hawaii that has an immense amount of power
24 potential to supply clean, emission-free, baseload electricity;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, the generation of electricity through the use of
28 renewable energy presents opportunities to promote energy self-
29 sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits, preserve natural
30 resources, and improve the environment; and
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32 WHEREAS, the United States' dependence on fossil fuels
33 weakens the nation's economy, threatens its national security,
34 and creates negative impacts on the environment; and
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36 WHEREAS, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of
37 American consumers, spur inflation, and boost the prices of
38 basic goods and services; and
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40 WHEREAS, studies show that a majority of voters see climate
41 change as a real, immediate, and serious threat; believe that
42 efforts to reduce greenhouse gases will create jobs; favor
43 action to reduce carbon emissions; and support the key elements
44 of the American Clean Energy and Security Act; and



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2 WHEREAS, a national statutory framework for clean energy
3 will provide a predictable regulatory framework that will spur
4 innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector; and
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6 WHEREAS, in the absence of congressional action, the
7 Environmental Protection Agency has announced its intention to
8 regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules
9 rather than legislation; and
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11 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed
12 the American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on
13 a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States
14 Senate are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy
15 Jobs and American Power Act; and
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17 WHEREAS, Congress has the historic opportunity to enact
18 comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that
19 will strengthen our national security, create clean energy jobs,
20 and reduce pollution; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
24 that the United States Congress is urged to pass comprehensive
25 clean energy, jobs, and climate change legislation; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
28 urged to include in legislation:
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- 30 (1) A unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas
31 emissions;
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33 (2) Protection for low and moderate income Americans from
34 increased energy costs;
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36 (3) Substantial investments in energy efficiency; and
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38 (4) Support for alternative sources of energy including
39 wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, and bio-fuels;
40 and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
43 urged to pass national clean energy and climate change
44 legislation that does not preempt state legislative efforts to



1 control carbon emissions and to advance clean energy
2 innovations; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States
6 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
7 Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional
8 delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

Mike Gabbard

*ex lra
Ariana
Gabbard
Ariana Y. Lee*

*Michelle Kilduff
Noman Sakamoto
Carol Fukushima*

Will Espero

*Rossy de Bab
Clarence K. Nishikawa*

*John DeSantis
Franne Cruz Calhoun*

Ray L. Allen

