
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND USING A SOLAR POWERED
HIGHWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM ALONG HAWAII'S HIGHWAYS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently relies on imported oil for over
2 90 percent of its electrical generating power; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique global position makes its
5 environment one of the most diverse and fragile environments in
6 the world; and
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8 WHEREAS, this same global positioning provides Hawaii with
9 a diverse array of natural resources including continuous trade
10 winds, vast ocean swells, brilliant sunshine, and intense heat
11 from geothermal vents, which if properly harnessed, can supply
12 our state with a large portion of its energy needs; and
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14 WHEREAS, solar panels (arrays of photovoltaic cells) make
15 use of renewable energy from the sun, and are a clean and
16 environmentally sound means of converting the sun's light energy
17 into electrical energy; and
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19 WHEREAS, the placement of solar panels along state highways
20 is an excellent means to provide electrical power for highway
21 lighting systems or nearby residential neighborhoods, and will
22 help promote the widespread use of solar energy; and
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24 WHEREAS, the concept of generating solar power along
25 roadsides for use to power highway lighting systems, as well as
26 supply additional energy to an area's electrical grid, is not
27 new with such systems existing in Europe for almost 20 years and
28 the first solar highway project in the nation being launched in
29 2008 by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); and



1 WHEREAS, the initial success of Oregon's solar highway
2 demonstration project, which supplied about 128,000 kWh per
3 year, has stimulated ODOT to investigate other opportunities to
4 increase solar highway project development, with many of these
5 projects being considered in collaboration with Oregon's
6 investor owned utilities; and
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8 WHEREAS, solar highway projects offer transportation
9 agencies a means of supplying clean energy for the powering of
10 highway lighting systems, and may offer the benefits of reduced
11 electrical costs; and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's year-round sunshine makes it an ideal
14 location to attempt to establish a solar highway project on our
15 state's highways; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2010, that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is
20 requested to determine the feasibility of establishing and using
21 a solar powered highway lighting system along Hawaii's highways;
22 and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DOT is also requested to submit a
25 report of its findings and recommendations, including a cost-
26 benefit analysis of the establishment and use of a solar powered
27 highway lighting system in Hawaii and any necessary legislation,
28 to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening
29 of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of
33 Transportation.
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Kel Mank
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OFFERED BY:

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