

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY PRESERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT POLICY TO GUIDE THE EXPANSION OF GEOTHERMAL  
ENERGY USE ON THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative aims to meet  
2 seventy percent of the State's energy needs through renewable  
3 resources by 2030; and  
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5           WHEREAS, technology advances make geothermal energy not  
6 only feasible, but a top source of renewable energy; and  
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8           WHEREAS, geothermal energy is a more reliable source of  
9 energy than solar or wind energy, because when the wind does not  
10 blow and the sun does not shine, the heat from the volcano  
11 continues to produce a steady flow of power; and  
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13           WHEREAS, Hawaii's ratio of renewable energy generation (ten  
14 percent) to fossil fuel generation (ninety percent) ranks third  
15 in the nation; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has  
18 indicated that Hawaii is one of the best positioned states for  
19 renewable energy potential; and  
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21           WHEREAS, geothermal energy is efficient, stable, and has  
22 long-term viability to help Hawaii meet its 2030 energy goals,  
23 reduce its contribution to global warming, and create a  
24 sustainable energy market; and  
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26           WHEREAS, Hawaii needs a sustainable energy market that  
27 strikes a balance between economic, community, and environmental  
28 priorities; and  
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30           WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 (2010)  
31 established a working group charged with the duty of analyzing  
32 the potential development of geothermal energy as the primary  
33 energy source to meet the baseload demand for electricity on the  
34 Big Island; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the Geothermal Working Group recommended that  
2 Hawaii's legislators:

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- 4 (1) Fund research and field work to catalog geothermal  
5 energy resources available on the Big Island;
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- 7 (2) Authorize a legislative agenda item to reconsider how  
8 the royalties from geothermal production are  
9 distributed to the State, county, and neighborhoods  
10 that border geothermal plants;
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- 12 (3) Designate geothermal funds for programs that benefit  
13 local communities and that further develop the  
14 resource; and
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- 16 (4) Make a highly-efficient, non-fossil energy future a  
17 top priority; and
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19 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii should now consider the  
20 implementation of policies and practices recommended by the  
21 Geothermal Working Group; now, therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
25 that the County of Hawaii is requested to establish an Energy  
26 Preservation and Development Policy to guide the expansion of  
27 geothermal energy use in the County of Hawaii; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is  
30 requested to grant the Public Utilities Commission the authority  
31 to publicly review and comment on all contracts, agreements, and  
32 policies concerning the expansion, reconfiguration, or use of  
33 geothermal energy in the County of Hawaii; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is  
36 requested to submit its written findings and policy  
37 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
38 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
42 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director of Business,  
43 Economic Development, and Tourism, Chairperson of the Board of  
44 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor of Hawaii



1 County, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Inc., Public  
2 Utilities Commission, Hawaii Electric Light Company, and Big  
3 Island Labor Alliance.

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OFFERED BY: Michelle Fedani (1st)

