

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

16
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

25
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



1 energy source to meet the baseload demand for electricity on the
2 Big Island; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Geothermal Working Group recommended that
5 Hawaii's legislators:

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

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the County of Hawaii
29 is requested to establish an Energy Preservation and Development
30 Policy to guide the expansion of geothermal energy use in the
31 County of Hawaii; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is
34 requested to grant the Public Utilities Commission the authority
35 to publicly review and comment on all contracts, agreements, and
36 policies concerning the expansion, reconfiguration, or use of
37 geothermal energy in the County of Hawaii; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is
40 requested to submit its written findings and policy
41 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
42 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
43



S.C.R. NO. 161

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director
4 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Chairperson of
5 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor
6 of Hawaii County, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board,
7 Inc., Public Utilities Commission, Hawaii Electric Light
8 Company, and Big Island Labor Alliance.

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OFFERED BY: Michelle Keleini (hr)

