

MAR 14 2012

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO REQUIRE HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. TO DEVELOP A TIMELY ACTION PLAN TO RETIRE ALL DEPRECIATED OIL-FIRED POWER PLANTS ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AND TRANSITION TO GEOTHERMAL-GENERATED ELECTRICITY AS THE ISLAND'S PRIMARY BASELOAD POWER SOURCE.

1 WHEREAS, fossil fuel-dependent power generation facilities  
2 have destructive environmental and economic consequences; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, consumers on the Island of Hawaii pay one of the  
5 highest rates per kilowatt-hour in the State, and the rate is  
6 expected to continue to increase as the global oil situation  
7 further drives up the cost of fossil fuel; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the use of indigenous, renewable geothermal energy  
10 to generate baseload electrical power reduces dependency on  
11 imported fossil fuels, reduces our carbon footprint and other  
12 environmental risks, and maintains or reduces electrical energy  
13 costs to consumers; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, in the past year, the Public Utilities Commission  
16 initiated new contractual procedures between Hawaii Electric  
17 Light Company, Inc. (HELCO) and Puna Geothermal Venture that are  
18 successfully reducing the kilowatt-hour cost of geothermal-  
19 generated power to consumers; and  
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21 WHEREAS, all but one of HELCO's existing fossil fuel-  
22 dependent power generation facilities on the Island of Hawaii  
23 are fully depreciated but continue to be operated; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Puna Geothermal Venture has demonstrated the  
26 safety and reliability of geothermal-generated electrical power  
27 on the Island of Hawaii for the past 18 years; and  
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29 WHEREAS, geothermal power has also generated millions of  
30 dollars in royalty payments to the State, County of Hawaii, and  
31 Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has recently  
2 directed all Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. companies,  
3 including HELCO, to retrofit existing oil-fired plants to comply  
4 with the Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards;  
5 and

6  
7           WHEREAS, the new requirement by the Environmental  
8 Protection Agency will force continued usage of these plants and  
9 perpetuate a level of emissions and kilowatt-hour costs that  
10 exceed those of geothermal-powered plants; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, the costs of the Environmental Protection Agency  
13 requirement will be borne by consumers, but instead investments  
14 should be dedicated to a transition to environmentally and  
15 economically preferred geothermal power production and  
16 distribution; now, therefore,

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18           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
20 that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to require  
21 HELCO to develop a timely plan to retire its fully depreciated  
22 fossil fuel power generation facilities and transfer to  
23 geothermal-generated electrical power as the primary baseload  
24 source; and

25  
26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HELCO continue to develop other  
27 alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro, but  
28 to prioritize the development of geothermal-generated  
29 electricity to become the primary baseload source for the Island  
30 of Hawaii within the next five years; and

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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
33 continue to implement contractual procedures between HELCO and  
34 geothermal power producers that represent an equitable return on  
35 investment and reduce the kilowatt-hour cost to consumers  
36 whenever possible; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, United States  
 3 Congressional Delegation for Hawaii, Mayor of the County of  
 4 Hawaii, County of Hawaii Planning Department, Public Utilities  
 5 Commission, Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc., and Puna  
 6 Geothermal Venture.

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OFFERED BY:

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