

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

OPPOSING THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing - also known as "fracking"-is
2 a technique used in "enhanced geothermal systems" or "engineered
3 geothermal systems" to generate geothermal energy; and
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5 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing involves drilling wells into
6 the ground and injecting a fluid into the rock to fracture the
7 rock; and
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9 WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing can result in potentially
10 adverse impacts to the environment, including:
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- 12 (1) Stress on surface water and ground water supplies from
13 the withdrawal of large volumes of water used in
14 drilling and hydraulic fracturing;
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- 16 (2) Contamination of underground sources of drinking water
17 and surface waters resulting from spills, faulty well
18 construction, or by other means related to the
19 hydraulic fracturing process;
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- 21 (3) Adverse impacts from the discharge of waste water from
22 hydraulic fracturing into surface waters or into
23 underground injection wells; and
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- 25 (4) Air pollution resulting from the release of volatile
26 organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and
27 greenhouse gases from the hydraulic fracturing
28 process; and
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30 WHEREAS, a recent study has raised questions about whether
31 there is a link between hydraulic fracturing and earthquakes;
32 and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is presently being assessed as a potential
2 site for "enhanced geothermal systems" or "engineered geothermal
3 systems" using hydraulic fracturing techniques; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is not clear whether present statutes and
6 regulations adequately protect against the potentially adverse
7 impacts of hydraulic fracturing; and
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9 WHEREAS, it would be useful to potential geothermal
10 developers to know which technologies will be acceptable in
11 Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, a proactive approach should be taken to safeguard
14 the people of Hawaii, the environment, and Hawaii's natural
15 resources by opposing the use of hydraulic fracturing; now,
16 therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that this body opposes the
21 use of hydraulic fracturing in Hawaii; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
25 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of
26 Health; and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
27 Resources.
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OFFERED BY:







