

FEB 19 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH REDUCED
TARIFFS FOR THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY NONFOSSIL
FUEL PRODUCERS THAT ELECTRIC UTILITIES WOULD OTHERWISE
CURTAIL DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS TO PERSONS ENGAGED IN
AQUACULTURE, AQUAPONICS, AND AGRICULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes the importance of a
2 self-sufficient and sustainable economy; and
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4 WHEREAS, approximately ninety per cent of all food consumed
5 in Hawaii is imported; and
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7 WHEREAS, although agricultural products are grown in
8 Hawaii, the welfare of Hawaii's people would be enhanced by
9 developing agricultural production and processing as fully as
10 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural
11 crops and the production of livestock, poultry, and other
12 agricultural products; and
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14 WHEREAS, as part of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and
15 in close cooperation with the United States Department of
16 Energy, Hawaii has undertaken pioneering efforts to develop its
17 own indigenous renewable energy resources for the production of
18 electricity throughout the State, thus reducing the need to
19 import expensive fossil fuels and the State's vulnerability to
20 disruptions in the supply of energy sources; and
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22 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the development of renewable
23 energy resources, the electric utilities in Hawaii do not fully
24 utilize the renewable energy, because the utilities significantly
25 curtail its use during off-peak hours, thus resulting in excess
26 energy production; and
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28 WHEREAS, persons engaged in agricultural production,
29 including the production of livestock and poultry, have been
30 adversely affected by rising electricity rates that increase the



1 costs of agricultural production and ultimately detrimentally
2 impact the people of Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, if the excess renewable energy resulting from the
5 curtailing by the electric utilities during off-peak hours were
6 made available for purchase by persons engaged in agricultural
7 production under a reduced tariff or reduced electricity rate,
8 the excess energy would be consumed to the benefit of all
9 parties involved; and
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11 WHEREAS, in such a case, the following benefits would be
12 realized:
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- 14 (1) Persons engaged in agricultural production would
15 receive electricity at reduced rates during off-peak
16 hours, thereby enhancing agricultural production;
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- 18 (2) Electric utilities would have a customer base of
19 persons engaged in agricultural production and would
20 be able to minimize the need to curtail excess
21 renewable energy;
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- 23 (3) Nonfossil fuel producers would be able to avoid
24 curtailment and could continue to generate electricity
25 and be paid for it;
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- 27 (4) Consumers would benefit from having a strong and
28 sustainable agricultural sector to provide Hawaii-
29 grown food, including livestock and poultry; and
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- 31 (5) The State would reduce its reliance on imported fossil
32 fuels and strengthen Hawaii's indigenous renewable
33 energy resources; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities
38 Commission is urged to establish, in cooperation with Hawaii's
39 regulated electric utilities, reduced tariffs for the sale of
40 electricity generated by nonfossil fuel producers that the
41 utilities would otherwise curtail during off-peak hours to
42 persons engaged in aquaculture, aquaponics, and agriculture,
43 including the growing and processing of agricultural crops and



1 the production of livestock, poultry, and other agricultural
2 products; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
5 is requested to submit a report on the establishment of the
6 reduced tariff to the Legislature no later than twenty days
7 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
11 Public Utilities Commission; Director of the Division of
12 Consumer Advocacy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
13 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Business,
14 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Health; Mayor of
15 the County of Hawaii; Mayor of the County of Maui; Mayor of the
16 City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the County of Kauai;
17 President of Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.; President of
18 Maui Electric Company, Ltd.; President of Hawaiian Electric
19 Company, Inc.; President of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative;
20 Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce
21 of Hawaii; President of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii
22 Farm Bureau Federation; and the Commander of the United States
23 Pacific Command.

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OFFERED BY:

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[Handwritten signatures]