
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING A FORECASTING PROGRAM USING MONEYS FROM THE PUBLIC BENEFIT FUND AND OTHER SOURCES TO ALIGN EFFICIENCY EFFORTS AND THE GROWTH OF RENEWABLE ENERGY WITH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION THAT MAY INCREASE ENERGY DEMAND.

1 WHEREAS, analysts have estimated that current electricity
2 consumption in the global information and communications
3 technologies ecosystem ranges from one thousand one hundred to
4 one thousand eight hundred terawatt-hours per year; and

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6 WHEREAS, global electricity consumption by information and
7 communications technologies today is the same as that used by
8 lighting in 1985; and

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10 WHEREAS, per bit, data transmitted over a wireless network
11 consumes more energy than when transported over a fiber optics
12 network; and

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14 WHEREAS, migration from wired internet to the wireless
15 internet through digital devices is happening fastest in
16 emerging markets and worldwide, mobile data traffic has doubled
17 in the past year and is forecasted to increase tenfold in the
18 next five years; and

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20 WHEREAS, current estimates of global electricity used by
21 digital devices in the global residential and commercial sector
22 ranges from four hundred sixty to five hundred fifty terawatt-
23 hours annually and is comparable to global electricity
24 consumption by residential lighting or refrigeration; and

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1 WHEREAS, data created, used, and transported annually,
2 known as the digital universe, is growing at a faster pace than
3 at any time in history and in the near future, hourly internet
4 traffic is expected to exceed the internet's annual traffic of
5 the year 2000; and
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7 WHEREAS, energy consumption in Hawaii is declining due to
8 conservation efforts and adherence to the State's energy
9 efficiency portfolio standard which was established by Act 155,
10 Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, and set a goal of reducing
11 electricity consumption by four thousand three hundred gigawatt-
12 hours by 2030; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii will face an upward pressure on energy
15 demand due to the rapid expansion of consumer oriented
16 electronic technologies and the mass storage and dissemination
17 of data; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Research and Economic Analysis Division of the
20 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
21 specializes in energy analysis and is capable of forecasting
22 energy demand in Hawaii if provided with appropriate funding;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, population and economic growth are the driving
26 forces in the world's need for energy and even with substantial
27 gains in efficiency, global energy demand by 2030 will increase
28 by an amount equivalent to adding two United States' worth of
29 consumption; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Public Benefits Fund, overseen by the Public
32 Utilities Commission and containing the fees collected pursuant
33 to section 269-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has funds that
34 could support energy forecasting efforts by the Research and
35 Economic Analysis Division to gauge whether Hawaii's reduced
36 demand for energy resulting from the energy efficiency portfolio
37 standard compliance will be offset by the growth in energy
38 consumption from technological innovation; now, therefore,
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular





1 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Public
2 Utilities Commission and the Department of Business, Economic
3 Development, and Tourism are requested to collaborate on
4 developing a forecasting program using moneys from the public
5 benefit fund and other sources to align efficiency efforts and
6 the growth of renewable energy with technological innovation
7 that may increase energy demand; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Utilities
10 Commission and the Department of Business, Economic Development,
11 and Tourism are requested to submit a report on their findings
12 and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, on
13 how to develop a forecasting program using moneys from the
14 public benefit fund and other sources to align efficiency
15 efforts and the growth of renewable energy with technological
16 innovation that may increase energy demand, to the Legislature
17 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
18 Session of 2015; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
22 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; the Director of
23 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Public Benefits
24 Fee Administrator; and the head of the Research and Economic
25 Analysis Division of the Department of Business, Economic
26 Development, and Tourism.
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OFFERED BY:

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