
HOUSE 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

5
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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26 WHEREAS, data created, used, and transported annually,
27 known as the digital universe, is growing at a faster pace than
28 at any time in history and in the near future, hourly internet



1 traffic is expected to exceed the internet's annual traffic of
2 the year 2000; and

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4 WHEREAS, energy consumption in Hawaii is declining due to
5 conservation efforts and adherence to the State's energy
6 efficiency portfolio standard which was established by Act 155,
7 Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, and set a goal of reducing
8 electricity consumption by four thousand three hundred gigawatt-
9 hours by 2030; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii will face an upward pressure on energy
12 demand due to the rapid expansion of consumer oriented
13 electronic technologies and the mass storage and dissemination
14 of data; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Research and Economic Analysis Division of the
17 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
18 specializes in energy analysis and is capable of forecasting
19 energy demand in Hawaii if provided with appropriate funding;
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS, population and economic growth are the driving
23 forces in the world's need for energy and even with substantial
24 gains in efficiency, global energy demand by 2030 will increase
25 by an amount equivalent to adding two United States' worth of
26 consumption; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Public Benefits Fund, overseen by the Public
29 Utilities Commission and containing the fees collected pursuant
30 to section 269-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has funds that
31 could support energy forecasting efforts by the Research and
32 Economic Analysis Division to gauge whether Hawaii's reduced
33 demand for energy resulting from the energy efficiency portfolio
34 standard compliance will be offset by the growth in energy
35 consumption from technological innovation; now, therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
39 Session of 2014, that the Public Utilities Commission and the
40 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism are
41 requested to collaborate on developing a forecasting program

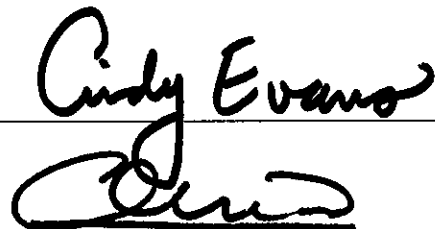


1 using moneys from the public benefit fund and other sources to
2 align efficiency efforts and the growth of renewable energy with
3 technological innovation that may increase energy demand; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Utilities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



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