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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM IN WHICH CREDITS FROM EXCESS ENERGY RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC CUSTOMERS MAY BE DONATED TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ELECTRICITY BILLS.

1           WHEREAS, residents of Hawaii recognize that the cost of  
2 living in paradise comes at the expense of their wallets; and  
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4           WHEREAS, the costs of housing, food, and energy in Hawaii  
5 are among the highest in the United States; and  
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7           WHEREAS, in 2013, Hawaii imported 91 percent of its energy  
8 and in 2014, Hawaii had the highest electricity prices in the  
9 nation due to its isolated location and dependence on petroleum;  
10 and  
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12           WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information  
13 Administration reports that in October 2015, the energy prices  
14 per kilowatt hour in Hawaii were 28.22 cents for residents,  
15 25.92 cents for commercial owners, and 22.19 cents for  
16 industrial owners, while the respective national energy prices  
17 averaged 12.73 cents, 10.70 cents, and 6.88 cents; and  
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19           WHEREAS, alternative sources of energy are increasingly  
20 popular in Hawaii; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the amount of Hawaii's renewable energy generated  
23 by solar energy increased from only 0.8 percent in 2007 to 30  
24 percent by 2014; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels to produce solar  
27 energy allows residents to defray the costs of energy use; and



1 WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels in Hawaii increased  
2 over time, with 54,069 photovoltaic systems installed as of  
3 2015, providing a capacity of 339 megawatts; and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's progressive energy policies support  
6 photovoltaic systems and provide incentives for residents to  
7 utilize photovoltaic energy, such as state tax incentives or  
8 feed-in tariffs that permit fixed rates for renewable  
9 electricity for owners of small renewable energy projects; and

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11 WHEREAS, net energy metering allows residential customers  
12 to obtain full retail value for excess solar energy fed into the  
13 grid, transforming unused energy into a monetary credit against  
14 future energy bills; and

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16 WHEREAS, the rising cost of electric energy, which is a  
17 necessity for daily operations, may force nonprofit  
18 organizations and schools to cut programs, job positions, or  
19 wages when electrical bills consume greater portions of annual  
20 operating budgets; and

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22 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and schools often struggle  
23 with conducting business or meeting student needs and are forced  
24 to rely on uncertain grants and outside funding despite the  
25 necessity of their services to Hawaii; and

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27 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and schools could  
28 reallocate funds to other critical areas, such as personnel and  
29 service provision, if their energy costs were defrayed; now,  
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
34 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Public  
35 Utilities Commission is encouraged to implement a program in  
36 which credits from excess energy received from residential  
37 photovoltaic customers may be donated to nonprofit organizations  
38 or schools for their electricity bills; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public  
3 Utilities Commission.

