
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY AND THE POTENTIAL MERITS
AND BENEFITS OF THE ENERGY COOPERATIVE MODEL FOR THE ISLAND
OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is a nonprofit
2 consumer cooperative association that is incorporated pursuant
3 to chapter 421C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the following
4 purposes:

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6 (1) To supply, produce, generate, purchase, market, sell,
7 transmit or distribute, and to promote the use of,
8 electric energy and other forms of energy;

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10 (2) To provide services relating or incidental to the
11 purposes set forth in paragraph (1); and

12
13 (3) For any other lawful purposes; and
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15 WHEREAS, as a nonprofit consumer cooperative association
16 managed by leaders on the island of Hawaii, Hawaii Island Energy
17 Cooperative is pursuing the potential merits of a cooperative
18 ownership structure for electric utility service on the island
19 of Hawaii; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Act
22 57, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, which states in part that "[a]n
23 electric cooperative . . . is a customer-owned organization
24 operating on a not-for-profit basis under the governance of a
25 board of directors democratically elected by the very same
26 customers who receive the cooperative's services and who act in
27 their role as owners and members of the cooperative"; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative would represent
2 the goals and benefits of this cooperative form of utility
3 ownership, which include local, democratic control over one of
4 the most critical infrastructures and public institutions on the
5 island of Hawaii; community-based and community-chosen
6 priorities; potentially lower electricity costs by virtue of its
7 nonprofit status; improved and greater overall energy
8 independence and sustainability; and the development of and
9 emphasis on island-produced fuels to provide an energy source
10 for both electric generation and transportation sectors; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative's organizational
13 efforts and its desire to bring the benefits of the cooperative
14 form of ownership to the critical electric utility
15 infrastructure of the island of Hawaii should inspire the State
16 to explore the merits of the energy cooperative model for the
17 island of Hawaii; now, therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
22 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
23 assess the feasibility and the potential merits and benefits of
24 the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
27 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to report its
28 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than
29 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
30 2017; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
34 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the President of
35 Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative.

