
HOUSE 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
3

4 WHEREAS, the costs of housing, food, and energy in Hawaii
5 are among the highest in the United States; and
6

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
11

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
18

19 WHEREAS, alternative sources of energy are increasingly
20 popular in Hawaii; and
21

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
25

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
4

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
10

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
15

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
21

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
26

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,
31

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, that the Public Utilities Commission is
35 encouraged to implement a program in which credits from excess
36 energy received from residential photovoltaic customers may be
37 donated to nonprofit organizations or schools for their
38 electricity bills; and



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

