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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ELIMINATING IMPORTED FUELS FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION BY 2045 AND ESTABLISH INCREMENTAL TARGETS BY WHICH TO GAUGE PROGRESS.

1 WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human  
2 activities are the most significant driver of observed climate  
3 change since the mid-twentieth century; and  
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5 WHEREAS, global oil consumption related to ground  
6 transportation is a large contributor to increased levels of  
7 carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere; and  
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9 WHEREAS, ground transportation accounts for roughly twenty-  
10 three percent of all energy consumption in Hawaii; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in 2013, it was reported that 1,300,000 vehicles  
13 were registered in Hawaii, while the number of licensed drivers  
14 totaled 904,500, highlighting that some residents own more than  
15 one vehicle; and  
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17 WHEREAS, petroleum-fueled vehicles subject consumers to  
18 fluctuations in crude oil prices, which vary according to global  
19 supply, global demand, oil inventory demand, and market  
20 speculation; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Hawaii's dependency on imported oil, coupled by  
23 the increasing number of vehicle owners, could have adverse  
24 effects on the local environment and Hawaii's largest  
25 industries, including tourism, agriculture, and recreational and  
26 commercial fishing; and  
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28 WHEREAS, oil is imported to Hawaii internationally and  
29 drains the State's economy of billions of dollars each year; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, a stronger local economy depends on a transition  
3 away from ground transportation powered by imported oil and  
4 toward ground transportation powered by local renewable energy  
5 resources, which keeps millions of dollars in the State, creates  
6 local jobs, and provides energy security and self-sufficiency;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, scalability of renewable energy will ultimately  
10 decrease and contain costs so consumers are not negatively  
11 affected by volatile prices; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the United States and one hundred ninety-five  
14 countries entered into the Paris Agreement which, within the  
15 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, seeks:  
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- 17 (1) A long-term goal to keep the increase in global  
18 average temperature to well below two degrees Celsius  
19 above pre-industrial levels;  
20  
21 (2) To limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, in order  
22 to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of  
23 climate change;  
24  
25 (3) To reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as  
26 possible, recognizing that this will take longer for  
27 developing countries; and  
28  
29 (4) To undertake rapid reductions in GHG emissions  
30 thereafter in accordance with the best available  
31 science; and  
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33 WHEREAS, Hawaii has shown its commitment to decreasing GHG  
34 emissions and increasing renewable energy by adopting the Clean  
35 Energy Initiative, becoming the first state to set a goal of  
36 increasing its renewable portfolio standards to one hundred  
37 percent by 2045; and  
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39 WHEREAS, Hawaii provides an ideal test bed to accelerate  
40 the use of renewable energy to fuel ground transportation, which  
41 reduces oil usage and GHG emissions; and  
42



1 WHEREAS, eliminating imported fuels for ground  
2 transportation requires a phased approach to ensure the State  
3 can achieve set benchmarks; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the State should provide incentives and  
6 investments for ground transportation projects fueled by  
7 renewable energy; now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
12 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii State  
13 Energy Office, in consultation with the Department of  
14 Transportation, are requested to conduct a study that focuses on  
15 researching the feasibility of eliminating imported fuels for  
16 ground transportation by 2045 and establish incremental targets  
17 by which to gauge progress; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include possible  
20 grants, programs, policy plans, tax credits, and tax exemptions  
21 for research and enterprises related to commercializing  
22 renewable energy fueled ground transportation projects; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
25 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to report its  
26 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
27 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
28 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in reporting its findings and  
31 recommendations to the Legislature, if the Department of  
32 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii State  
33 Energy Office determine that the 2045 target year is not  
34 feasible to eliminate imported fuel for ground transportation,  
35 then the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
36 Tourism is requested to propose an alternative target year; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
39 utilize the report in future programs and budgetary planning;  
40 and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
3 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Hawaii State  
4 Energy Office Energy Administrator.  
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