
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE LEGISLATURE'S RECOGNITION OF HAWAII ISLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE'S ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS AND DESIRE TO BRING THE BENEFITS OF THE COOPERATIVE FORM OF OWNERSHIP TO THE CRITICAL ELECTRIC UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE OF HAWAI'I ISLAND AND REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF APPROVING AN ENERGY COOPERATIVE MODEL FOR HAWAI'I ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is a non-
2 profit cooperative association formed by community and business
3 leaders on Hawai'i Island to explore the potential merits of a
4 community-based, cooperative ownership structure for electric
5 utility service on the Big Island; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is a non-
8 profit cooperative association organized under chapter 421C,
9 Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to consumer cooperative
10 associations; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative's purpose is to:

13
14 (1) Supply, produce, generate, purchase, market, sell,
15 promote the use of, and transmit or distribute
16 electric energy and other forms of energy; and
17

18 (2) Provide services relating to or incidental to
19 paragraph (1); and
20

21 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is made up of
22 leaders on the Island of Hawai'i; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative is pursuing the
25 potential merits of a cooperative ownership structure for
26 electric utility service on the Island of Hawai'i; and
27



S.C.R. NO. 29

1 WHEREAS, section 269-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, defines
2 an "electric cooperative" as a cooperative association or entity
3 that is:

- 4 (1) Owned by its members;
- 5 (2) Formed pursuant to chapter 421C, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes;
- 7 (3) Operated on a not-for-profit basis;
- 8 (4) Authorized pursuant to a legislatively granted
9 franchise or other legislative authority to
10 manufacture, sell, furnish, and supply electric light,
11 electric current, or electric power to its members or
12 a designated service area; and
- 13 (5) Governed by a board of directors who are members of
14 the electric cooperative and who are democratically
15 elected by members of the electric cooperative
16 pursuant to applicable bylaws; and

17
18 WHEREAS, Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative has the potential
19 to highlight the benefits of cooperative ownership as compared
20 to shareholder ownership, including:

- 21 (1) Local, democratic control over critical
22 infrastructures and public institutions on the Hawai'i
23 Island;
- 24 (2) Community-based and community-chosen priorities;
- 25 (3) Potentially lower electricity costs through tax-exempt
26 status;
- 27 (4) Improved and greater overall energy independence and
28 sustainability; and
- 29 (5) Development of and emphasis on island-produced fuels
30 to provide an energy source for electric generation
31 and transportation sectors; now, therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 29

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
 3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
 4 expresses its recognition of Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative's
 5 organizational efforts and desire to bring the benefits of a
 6 cooperative form of ownership to the critical electric utility
 7 infrastructure of Hawai'i Island; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
 10 is requested to consider the feasibility of approving an energy
 11 cooperative model for Hawai'i Island; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public
 15 Utilities Commission, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, and the
 16 Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative.

17
 18
 19

OFFERED BY: *Jamaine R. Inouye*

For
Mike Gabbard
Mark
Michelle Sedani
R

