
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATES TO LOWER COSTS FOR CONSUMERS, CREATE MORE JOBS, AND REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMY BY REPLACING FOSSIL FUELS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, human activity has caused an alarming increase in
2 greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, primarily produced by
3 the use of fossil fuels, and recorded in measurements first
4 taken at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, showing an approximate thirty
5 percent increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide between 1958 and
6 2017 which has resulted in a rapidly warming globe; and
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8 WHEREAS, warming temperatures have already caused Hawaii's
9 sea level to rise half a foot in recent decades accelerating the
10 erosion and loss of dozens of miles of beaches around the state,
11 including Waikiki Beach, which local businesses have voluntarily
12 asked to pay millions in additional taxes to artificially
13 replenish because its permanent erosion will cause an estimated
14 \$2,000,000,000 in annual losses for the local economy; and
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16 WHEREAS, ocean acidity has already grown about thirty
17 percent, contributing to widespread coral bleaching and reef
18 loss, shrinking fisheries, and devaluing a natural asset
19 measured in 2002 as a \$9,700,000,000 resource contributing
20 \$363,000,0000 in annual revenue to the local economy; and
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22 WHEREAS, warming air has already led to increasingly
23 frequent and intense hurricanes, including a record fifteen
24 hurricanes and tropical storms nearing or hitting Hawaii in
25 2015, and two separate hurricanes narrowly missing Hawaii in one
26 week in 2016, a direct hit from any one of which could cause an
27 estimated \$40,000,000,000 in losses to the State's economy; and
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1 WHEREAS, industrial polluters have traditionally been
2 allowed to freely dump carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases
3 into the air, effectively passing the costs of mitigation and
4 cleanup onto taxpayers, prompting action to encourage the
5 replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy which has
6 already led to successful progress reducing costs for consumers,
7 creating jobs, and improving the environment; and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii households each saved an average of \$945 in
10 electric costs in 2015 as a result of switching to more
11 efficient appliances that meet federal efficiency standards; and

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13 WHEREAS, the switch to electric vehicles has reduced fuel
14 costs for consumers by approximately thirty percent and electric
15 vehicle adoption has grown twenty-six percent between 2015 and
16 2016; and

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18 WHEREAS, more than one third of single family homes in
19 Hawaii have installed rooftop solar power generation which has
20 significantly reduced consumer electric bills and created
21 thousands of jobs, making renewable energy the fastest growing
22 segment of the economy and accounting for a quarter of all
23 building permits issued in Honolulu during the Great Recession
24 of 2007-2009; and

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26 WHEREAS, progress toward Hawaii's one hundred percent
27 renewable portfolio standard has meant an increase in renewable
28 energy from nine percent of electricity generated in 2007 to
29 twenty-five percent of electricity generated in 2017, which has
30 already saved Hawaii over a quarter of a billion dollars by
31 reducing reliance on more expensive fossil fuels; and

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33 WHEREAS, because fossil fuels are a commodity whose price
34 will rise as supplies become more difficult to extract, and
35 renewable energy is a technology whose price will decrease as
36 innovation reduces costs, other states will increasingly stand
37 to benefit by switching to renewable energy as Hawaii has done;
38 now, therefore

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
42 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Federal government and



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1 states are encouraged to lower costs for consumers, create more
2 jobs, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the economy by
3 replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
7 United States, the United States Secretary of Energy, the
8 Chairperson of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and
9 Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the United States House
10 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Governors of the states
11 and territories of the United States, and the Mayor of the
12 District of Columbia.
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OFFERED BY:



Nicole E. Lown



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