
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
10 the erosion and loss of dozens of miles of beaches around the
11 state, including Waikiki Beach, which many local businesses have
12 supported paying 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 \$40,000,000,0000 in losses to the State's economy; and

28 WHEREAS, industrial polluters have traditionally been
29 allowed to freely dump carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases



1 into the air, effectively passing the costs of mitigation and
2 cleanup onto taxpayers, prompting action to encourage the
3 replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy which has
4 already led to successful progress reducing costs for consumers,
5 creating jobs, and improving the environment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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38 WHEREAS, taxpayers in all states stand to benefit by
39 reducing carbon pollution driving climate change, whose
40 mitigation and adaptation costs are passed on to consumers as
41 federal, state, and local governments are forced to spend
42 additional resources fighting increasing sea level rise,
43 drought, and natural disasters; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the federal government and
4 all states are encouraged to lower costs for consumers, create
5 more jobs, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the
6 economy by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government and all
9 states are encouraged to assist with retraining and meaningful
10 support for workers in the fossil fuel sector to ensure their
11 future as the market transitions from fossil fuels to cheaper
12 renewable energy; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
16 United States, the United States Secretary of Energy, the
17 Chairperson of the United States Senate Committee on Energy and
18 Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the United States House
19 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Governors of the states
20 and territories of the United States, and the Mayor of the
21 District of Columbia.

