
HOUSE 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

15
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

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29 WHEREAS, industrial polluters have traditionally been
30 allowed to freely dump carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases
31 into the air, effectively passing the costs of mitigation and



1 cleanup onto taxpayers, prompting action to encourage the
2 replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy which has
3 already led to successful progress reducing costs for consumers,
4 creating jobs, and improving the environment; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii households each saved an average of \$945 in
7 electric costs in 2015 as a result of switching to more
8 efficient appliances that meet federal efficiency standards; and
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10 WHEREAS, the switch to electric vehicles has reduced fuel
11 costs for consumers by approximately thirty percent and electric
12 vehicle adoption has grown twenty-six percent between 2015 and
13 2016; and
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15 WHEREAS, more than one third of single family homes in
16 Hawaii have installed rooftop solar power generation which has
17 significantly reduced consumer electric bills and created
18 thousands of jobs, making renewable energy the fastest growing
19 segment of the economy and accounting for a quarter of all
20 building permits issued in Honolulu during the Great Recession
21 of 2007-2009; and
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23 WHEREAS, progress toward Hawaii's one hundred percent
24 renewable portfolio standard has meant an increase in renewable
25 energy from nine percent of electricity generated in 2007 to
26 twenty-five percent of electricity generated in 2017, which has
27 already saved Hawaii over a quarter of a billion dollars by
28 reducing reliance on more expensive fossil fuels; and
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30 WHEREAS, because fossil fuels are a commodity whose price
31 will rise as supplies become more difficult to extract, and
32 renewable energy is a technology whose price will decrease as
33 innovation reduces costs, other states will increasingly stand
34 to benefit by switching to renewable energy as Hawaii has done;
35 and
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37 WHEREAS, taxpayers in all states stand to benefit by
38 reducing carbon pollution driving climate change, whose
39 mitigation and adaptation costs are passed on to consumers as
40 federal, state, and local governments are forced to spend
41 additional resources fighting increasing sea level rise,
42 drought, and natural disasters; now, therefore,



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

