SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON HOW TO INCORPORATE RENEWABLE FUELS INTO THE HAWAII CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, eighty percent of Hawaii's energy comes from imported fuel, and fossil fuels are particularly damaging to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, launched in 2008, is a partnership between the State and the United States Department of Energy that brings together business leaders, policy makers, and concerned citizens committed to leading Hawaii to energy independence; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Hawaii had a renewable portfolio standard of 9.4 percent, which has increased substantially since then, but is still a long way off from the goal of a one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard by 2045; and

WHEREAS, petroleum use in the State's transportation sector accounts for two-thirds of the State's overall energy usage; and

WHEREAS, hydrocarbons are the most energy-dense way to store and transport energy, meaning renewable hydrocarbons like biofuels, which are derived from crops that can be harvested and regrown annually, will be a critical component of achieving the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative's goal of one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and

WHEREAS, one-third of the State's petroleum usage is by the commercial aviation sector, meaning the development of biojet fuel technologies is an important aspect to establishing and maintaining a robust biofuel portfolio in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, biofuel is produced as part of an integrated food, fuel, energy, and recycling system; and

WHEREAS, environmental concerns about wastewater, trash, and agricultural waste can be assuaged with the development and advancement of biofuel technology, as these types of waste are critical biofuel feedstock opportunities; and

WHEREAS, reliable biofuel energy available on demand helps support other renewable energy sources like wind and solar energy, when there is no wind or sun; and

WHEREAS, Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, established a renewable fuels production tax credit to encourage the production of renewable fuels; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to evaluate how renewable fuels, including biogas and gases from renewable and sustainable sources, can play a role in achieving the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative's goal of one hundred percent renewable energy by 2045; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Executive Management Team of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; and Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.