

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE ENERGY OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND CREATE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, renewable energy and agriculture can coexist and
2 contribute to the State's self-sufficiency, energy security, and
3 resilience; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the State currently imports fossil fuels and is
6 highly dependent on foreign imports; and

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8 WHEREAS, Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established
9 the electric renewable portfolio standard of one hundred percent
10 of net electricity sales by 2045, and the Governor has set a
11 goal of doubling local food production by 2020; and

12
13 WHEREAS, utility-scale solar developments in Hawaii need to
14 increase to reach the one hundred percent renewable portfolio
15 standard and be able to provide stable, low-cost energy,
16 especially for low to moderate income ratepayers and small
17 businesses; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the State has not yet developed a long-term
20 strategic plan to achieve one hundred percent renewable
21 electricity to achieve the State's renewable portfolio standard
22 and policies; and

23
24 WHEREAS, renewable energy developments such as utility-
25 scale solar developments will require thousands of acres of flat
26 land that are close to major transmission lines to keep
27 infrastructure costs low; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not yet
30 developed a strategic plan that incorporates renewable energy



1 development in its plans and policies to increase local food
2 production; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State has thousands of acres of agricultural
5 land that is classified by the Land Study Bureau with A, B, C,
6 D, and E land-based productivity ratings, but these lands are
7 fallow and not being utilized for farming; and

8
9 WHEREAS, new agricultural technology creates updated
10 requirements for land use that are not dependent on the
11 seemingly outdated Land Study Bureau's land-based rating system;
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Netherlands has embraced new agricultural
15 technology, shifted away from land-based farming, and utilizes
16 low cost renewable energy to power greenhouse and vertical
17 farms, leading the Netherlands to become one of the largest
18 producers of agricultural exports in the world; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the State must entertain alternatives to its
21 current agricultural operations by utilizing new ideas for the
22 use of land and agricultural production methods, including urban
23 agriculture; and

24
25 WHEREAS, there is a nexus between land use for renewable
26 solar energy developments and growing the State's agricultural
27 industry; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
30 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State
31 Energy Office, in collaboration with the Department of
32 Agriculture, is requested to create and implement a strategic
33 plan that encompasses increasing renewable energy and local food
34 production in a symbiotic relationship; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested
37 to include findings and recommendations related to the
38 following:

- 39
40 (1) Land use policy initiatives;
41
42 (2) Protected agriculture;



- 1
- 2 (3) Agricultural technology;
- 3
- 4 (4) Necessary recommendations for legislation at the state
- 5 and county levels to implement agricultural technology
- 6 and energy developments on the same lands;
- 7
- 8 (5) Identification and implementation of mutually-
- 9 beneficial relationships between agriculture and
- 10 energy; and
- 11
- 12 (6) Identification of potential conflicting relationships
- 13 and solutions to those conflicts; and
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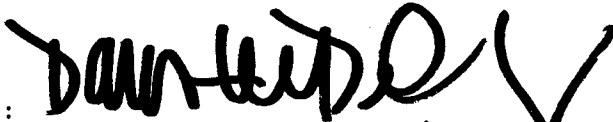
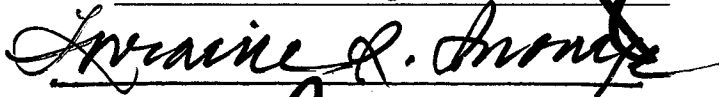
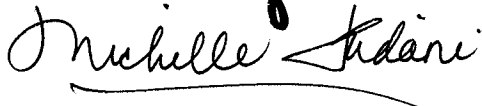
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office, in
 16 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, is requested
 17 to create an economic impact report based on the successful
 18 implementation of the strategic plan; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is
 21 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the
 23 strategic plan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 24 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

25
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Office is
 27 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 28 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and the
 29 economic impact report, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 30 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the State
 34 Energy Office and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

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 36
 37






S.R. NO. 89

~~DC. Smith~~

