
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO
COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ATTRACT
COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPERS BY EXPANDING
THE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM, REMOVING OR
INCREASING CAPS ON CAPACITY, AND ENSURING THAT THE PROGRAM
ACCOMMODATES A VARIETY OF PROJECTS, MODELS, AND SIZES.

1 WHEREAS, Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015 (Act 100),
2 directed the Public Utilities Commission to establish a
3 Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) tariff to provide the
4 benefits of renewable energy to residential and commercial
5 customers who do not have access to onsite renewable energy
6 generation, including many renters and apartment dwellers; and
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8 WHEREAS, subscribers are residential or commercial electric
9 customers who participate, by lease or purchase, in community
10 solar projects and get monthly bill credits to offset their
11 electricity use; and
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13 WHEREAS, electric customers who want to participate in the
14 CBRE program contract directly with subscriber organizations;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, the Phase One of the CBRE program was opened to
18 applicants in 2018 and was capped at a capacity of eight
19 megawatts statewide; the cap for Phase Two was set by the Public
20 Utilities Commission at sixty-four megawatts; and
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22 WHEREAS, the limited eight megawatt capacity of Phase One
23 has been insufficient to attract developers who are experienced
24 and successful at deploying these projects in other
25 jurisdictions, thereby limiting the possibility for success of
26 the new CBRE program in Hawaii; and



H.C.R. NO. 76

1 WHEREAS, the second phase would benefit from additional
2 investors to achieve goals for increasing program capacity in
3 terms of energy production and customer engagement; now,
4 therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
8 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities
9 Commission is urged to expand access to community-based
10 renewable energy and attract community-based renewable energy
11 developers by expanding the Community-Based Renewable Energy
12 program, removing or increasing caps on capacity, and ensuring
13 that the program accommodates a variety of projects, models, and
14 sizes; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
17 is urged to consider the original intent of Act 100 - that the
18 CBRE program be designed in an open and accessible process;
19 accommodate a variety of CBRE projects, models, and sizes; and
20 seek to increase access for residents and businesses who are
21 unable to participate directly in renewable energy generation by
22 dramatically expanding the market for eligible renewable energy
23 resources; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
26 is urged to remove or substantially increase CBRE program
27 capacity beyond the seventy-two megawatts currently envisioned
28 for Phases 1 and 2 combined and consider creating a process for
29 periodically re-evaluating this cap to allow for adjustments;
30 and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
33 is urged to consider providing incentives, such as credit rate
34 "adders", for serving hard-to-reach customer segments; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
37 is urged to more fully realize Act 100's goal for a program that
38 standardizes and streamlines the related interconnection
39 processes and consider ways to encourage expediting
40 interconnection for CBRE projects and restrict the amount of
41 interconnection costs that can be imposed on CBRE projects; and



H.C.R. NO. 76

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaiian Electric, Maui
2 Electric, and Hawaii Electric Light are urged to expand the
3 applicant pool to include additional investors for Phase two of
4 the CBRE program; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief
8 Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office, Chair of the
9 Public Utilities Commission, and President and Chief Executive
10 Officer of Hawaiian Electric Company.
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OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowen*

MAR 03 2020

