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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WHEN REVIEWING THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF HAWAII GAS BY AN EXTERNAL ENTITY.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas has been the only franchised gas  
2 utility in Hawaii since 1904, serving more than sixty thousand  
3 customers throughout the State; and

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5           WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas primarily processes and distributes  
6 synthetic natural gas, liquified petroleum gas, and liquefied  
7 natural gas; and

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9           WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas currently has one renewable natural gas  
10 production facility in operation on Oahu that transforms waste  
11 material from the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant into  
12 renewable natural gas, which it blends with gas in its  
13 pipelines; and

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15           WHEREAS, through Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, the  
16 State recognized the importance of eliminating fossil fuels,  
17 including petroleum- and natural gas-derived products, and  
18 transitioning to renewable sources of energy across all sectors,  
19 resulting in one hundred percent of Hawaii's electricity coming  
20 from renewable sources by 2045; and

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22           WHEREAS, Hawaii also established a goal of transitioning to  
23 a zero-emissions clean and carbon-neutral economy by 2045  
24 through Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii of 2018; and

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26           WHEREAS, the State currently has no mandate for a gas  
27 utility to uphold the same set of standards established for an  
28 electric utility regarding the transition to renewable sources,



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1 or to consider the State's commitment to reduce its greenhouse  
2 gas emissions and decarbonize the economy; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas recently announced that the company is  
5 for sale; and

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7 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that any  
8 prospective buyer of Hawaii Gas be committed to accelerating  
9 renewable natural gas production, and to exploring all options  
10 for lower-carbon alternatives to liquefied natural gas,  
11 synthetic natural gas, and liquified petroleum gas, and be ready  
12 and willing to be an ally in helping Hawaii achieve its  
13 clean-energy and decarbonization goals; and

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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas is regulated by the Public Utilities  
16 Commission, whose role is to protect the public interest by  
17 overseeing and regulating public utilities to ensure that they  
18 provide reliable service at just and reasonable rates; now,  
19 therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
23 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Public Utilities  
24 Commission is requested to protect the public interest when  
25 reviewing the potential acquisition of Hawaii Gas by determining  
26 whether:

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- 28 (1) The prospective buyer would serve in the best
- 29 interests of the State's economy and the communities
- 30 served by Hawaii Gas;
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- 32 (2) The prospective buyer, if approved, provides
- 33 significant, quantifiable benefits to Hawaii Gas's
- 34 ratepayers in both the short and the long term;
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- 36 (3) The proposed transaction, if approved, will
- 37 demonstrate a commitment to the transition to
- 38 renewable natural gas; and
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- 40 (4) The prospective buyer is committed to upholding the
- 41 State policy regarding clean energy and



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decarbonization of the economy, or whether the prospective buyer is likely to try to influence policy in order to benefit ratepayers or the company itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

OFFERED BY: Nicole E. Lowen

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MAR 04 2020

