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# HOUSE 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



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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, that the Public Utilities Commission is urged to expand  
9 access to community-based renewable energy and attract  
10 community-based renewable energy developers by expanding the  
11 Community-Based Renewable Energy program, removing or increasing  
12 caps on capacity, and ensuring that the program accommodates a  
13 variety of projects, models, and sizes; and  
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15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
16 is urged to consider the original intent of Act 100 - that the  
17 CBRE program be designed in an open and accessible process;  
18 accommodate a variety of CBRE projects, models, and sizes; and  
19 seek to increase access for residents and businesses who are  
20 unable to participate directly in renewable energy generation by  
21 dramatically expanding the market for eligible renewable energy  
22 resources; and  
23

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
25 is urged to remove or substantially increase CBRE program  
26 capacity beyond the seventy-two megawatts currently envisioned  
27 for Phases 1 and 2 combined and consider creating a process for  
28 periodically re-evaluating this cap to allow for adjustments;  
29 and  
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31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
32 is urged to consider providing incentives, such as credit rate  
33 "adders", for serving hard-to-reach customer segments; and  
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35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
36 is urged to more fully realize Act 100's goal for a program that  
37 standardizes and streamlines the related interconnection  
38 processes and consider ways to encourage expediting  
39 interconnection for CBRE projects and restrict the amount of  
40 interconnection costs that can be imposed on CBRE projects; and



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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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief Energy Officer  
8 of the Hawaii State Energy Office, Chair of the Public Utilities  
9 Commission, and President and Chief Executive Officer of  
10 Hawaiian Electric Company.  
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12  
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OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lawen*

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