
HOUSE 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

4
5 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas primarily processes and distributes
6 synthetic natural gas, liquified petroleum gas, and liquefied
7 natural gas; and

8
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

14
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

21
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

25
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,
29 or to consider the State's commitment to reduce its greenhouse
30 gas emissions and decarbonize the economy; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas recently announced that the company is
2 for sale; and

3
4 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that any
5 prospective buyer of Hawaii Gas be committed to accelerating
6 renewable natural gas production, and to exploring all options
7 for lower-carbon alternatives to liquefied natural gas,
8 synthetic natural gas, and liquified petroleum gas, and be ready
9 and willing to be an ally in helping Hawaii achieve its
10 clean-energy and decarbonization goals; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Hawaii Gas is regulated by the Public Utilities
13 Commission, whose role is to protect the public interest by
14 overseeing and regulating public utilities to ensure that they
15 provide reliable service at just and reasonable rates; now,
16 therefore,

17
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
20 2020, that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to
21 protect the public interest when reviewing the potential
22 acquisition of Hawaii Gas by determining whether:

- 23
24 (1) The prospective buyer would serve in the best
25 interests of the State's economy and the communities
26 served by Hawaii Gas;
27
28 (2) The prospective buyer, if approved, provides
29 significant, quantifiable benefits to Hawaii Gas's
30 ratepayers in both the short and the long term;
31
32 (3) The proposed transaction, if approved, will
33 demonstrate a commitment to the transition to
34 renewable natural gas; and
35
36 (4) The prospective buyer is committed to upholding the
37 State policy regarding clean energy and
38 decarbonization of the economy, or whether the
39 prospective buyer is likely to try to influence policy
40 in order to benefit ratepayers or the company itself;
41 and



H.R. NO. 71

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public
 3 Utilities Commission.
 4
 5
 6

OFFERED BY: Wade E. Lowe

Sakshi Om

[Signature]

Rida Cabonika Anakaw

[Signature]

David Carnas

[Signature]

Amy Peruso

MAR 04 2020

