

MAR 06 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO CONDUCT AN ELECTRICAL ASSESSMENT OF ITS FACILITIES AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's electricity consumers continue to endure  
2 the highest electricity rates in the country; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, the highest costs for this essential utility  
5 impose substantial burdens on the State's households,  
6 businesses, and schools; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, the high cost of electricity has severely burdened  
9 the operations of the Department of Education in properly  
10 supplying classrooms with necessary electricity needs; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, the Department of Education's energy requirements  
13 and electricity bills are expected to increase as a result of,  
14 among other things, volatile oil prices and the need to install  
15 heat abatement and air conditioning equipment in some schools to  
16 preserve and promote the health and safety of students and  
17 teachers, and to foster a better and more comfortable and  
18 productive learning environment in public schools; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, given the current circumstances, it is in the  
21 public's best interest to assist the Department of Education in  
22 achieving immediate, tangible, and sustainable electricity cost  
23 relief through the generation of renewable energy; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, renewable energy will enable the Department of  
26 Education to provide more cooling for schools by managing its  
27 energy costs, which would be more sustainable than any temporary  
28 rate reduction due to the volatility of oil prices and resulting  
29 increased electricity rates; and

30  
31           WHEREAS, the State has established an important policy goal  
32 of achieving a one hundred percent renewable energy portfolio



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1 standard by 2045, pursuant to Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii  
2 2015; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, investments in renewable energy resources must be  
5 made by the Department of Education to help the State achieve  
6 its aggressive clean energy goals and to provide electricity for  
7 its own use in public schools; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, an electrical assessment will provide an important  
10 baseline that will allow the State to accurately determine  
11 whether efforts to convert to renewable energy sources are  
12 successful; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, it is consistent with state policy to facilitate  
15 an increase in the use of renewable energy by the Department of  
16 Education by providing financial relief for the installation and  
17 use of renewable energy; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, due to the projected high cost of electricity in  
20 public schools to keep classrooms comfortable for students and  
21 teachers throughout the State being a key point for the  
22 Legislature; now, therefore,

23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
25 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
26 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is  
27 encouraged to require each public school to conduct an  
28 electrical assessment of its facilities to gather an  
29 understanding of its current usage and most essential needs; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
32 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
33 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
35 the Regular Session of 2021; and

36  
37



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
3 Education and Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dukin', is written over a horizontal line.