

MAR - 6 2020

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## SENATE 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  
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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  
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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  
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31           WHEREAS, the State has established an important policy goal  
32 of achieving a one hundred percent renewable energy portfolio  
33 standard by 2045, pursuant to Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii  
34 2015; and  
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# S.R. NO. 180

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

5  
 6           WHEREAS, an electrical assessment will provide an important  
 7 baseline that will allow the State to accurately determine  
 8 whether efforts to convert to renewable energy sources are  
 9 successful; and

10  
 11           WHEREAS, it is consistent with state policy to facilitate  
 12 an increase in the use of renewable energy by the Department of  
 13 Education by providing financial relief for the installation and  
 14 use of renewable energy; and

15  
 16           WHEREAS, due to the projected high cost of electricity in  
 17 public schools to keep classrooms comfortable for students and  
 18 teachers throughout the State being a key point for the  
 19 Legislature; now, therefore,

20  
 21           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 22 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
 23 Department of Education is encouraged to require each public  
 24 school to conduct an electrical assessment of its facilities to  
 25 gather an understanding of its current usage and most essential  
 26 needs; and

27  
 28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
 29 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
 30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 32 the Regular Session of 2021; and

33  
 34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and  
 36 Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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


