

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INTEGRATED HAWAII PACIFIC HYDROGEN HUB.

1 WHEREAS, in 2008, the State and United States Department of
2 Energy established the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to create
3 a long-term partnership that will result in a fundamental and
4 sustained transformation of Hawaii's energy system in a way that
5 is a replicable global model; and

6
7 WHEREAS, in 2014, the State and United States Department of
8 Energy recommitted to the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative
9 partnership through an updated Memorandum of Understanding to
10 transition from fossil fuel imports in favor of local renewable
11 resources and efficiency to develop "a national model for job
12 creation, industrial transformation, environmental compliance,
13 and technological innovation"; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawaii has established itself as a global leader
16 on energy policy by being the first state in the nation to adopt
17 a legally binding commitment to achieve a one hundred percent
18 renewable portfolio standard and to declare a climate emergency,
19 as well as commit to mitigate and adapt to climate change
20 consistent with the Paris Agreement and achieve net-negative
21 greenhouse gas emissions; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and the State's
24 establishment of a one hundred percent renewable portfolio
25 standard by 2045 was followed by twelve other states that
26 adopted similar targets; and

27
28 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Legislature created the Hawaii State
29 Energy Office as an independent agency, administratively
30 attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development,



1 and Tourism, to be the State's primary government entity for
2 supporting the clean energy initiative; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is led by the Chief
5 Energy Officer who, subject to the approval of the Governor,
6 coordinates the State's energy programs with those of the
7 federal government, other territory and state governments,
8 political subdivisions of the State, departments of the State,
9 and governments of nations with interest in common energy
10 resources; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Chief Energy Officer also identifies market
13 gaps and innovation opportunities, collaborates with
14 stakeholders, and facilitates public-private partnerships to
15 develop projects, programs, and tools to encourage private and
16 public exploration, research, and development of energy
17 resources, distributed energy resources, and data analytics that
18 will support the State's energy and decarbonization goals; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, established
21 a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at
22 least fifty percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and requires the
23 Hawaii State Energy Office to determine Hawaii's pathway to
24 decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and
25 action that will be needed to achieve those goals; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the State has committed to a just transition
28 toward a decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
29 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a climate
30 emergency mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis,
31 which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from
32 state authorities, will transform the economy; and

33
34 WHEREAS, the Biden-Harris Administration has established
35 the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government approach to
36 ensure that federal agencies work with states and local
37 communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall
38 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to
39 disadvantaged communities; and

40
41 WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
42 includes up to \$7,000,000,000 to establish six to ten regional



1 clean hydrogen hubs across the United States to be a central
2 driver in helping communities benefit from clean energy
3 investments, good-paying jobs, and improved energy security; and
4

5 WHEREAS, clean hydrogen hubs will create networks of
6 hydrogen producers, consumers, and local connective
7 infrastructure to accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean
8 energy carrier that can deliver or store significant amounts of
9 energy as a valuable complement to the portfolio of renewable
10 solutions that are crucial to Hawaii's strategy for achieving
11 its clean energy and decarbonization objectives; and
12

13 WHEREAS, hydrogen energy has potential to serve as a source
14 of clean, firm, dispatchable power and a method of energy
15 storage, offering another pathway for decarbonization of the
16 industrial sector and enabling energy security for critical
17 infrastructure; and
18

19 WHEREAS, hydrogen is a chemical energy storage technology
20 and energy carrier that can be produced locally and can be used
21 to increase resilience and serve critical facilities, including
22 resilience hubs and other emergency preparedness and recovery
23 facilities; and
24

25 WHEREAS, hydrogen can serve as an alternative fuel with low
26 to zero direct emissions that can achieve emission reductions in
27 the hard-to-abate, or hard-to-decarbonize, energy sectors,
28 including aviation, maritime, and heavy-duty vehicles; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the Inflation Reduction Act provides additional
31 policies and incentives for hydrogen, including a production tax
32 credit that will further boost the United States market for
33 clean hydrogen; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office and its consortium
36 of private-public sector partners' concept paper for an
37 integrated Hawaii Pacific Hydrogen Hub was one of thirty-three
38 concept papers to be encouraged by the United States Department
39 of Energy to proceed to a full application for the United States
40 Department of Energy Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs funding
41 opportunity; and
42



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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is leading the
 2 consortium to submit the full application to establish a Hawaii
 3 Pacific Hydrogen Hub to provide economic vitality, better
 4 quality of life, and greater energy security for the people of
 5 Hawaii and the Pacific region through the local production,
 6 processing, transport, storage, and use of clean hydrogen; now,
 7 therefore,

8
 9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
 11 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the
 12 Hawaii State Energy Office in the establishment of an integrated
 13 Hawaii Pacific Hydrogen Hub; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor; Director of
 16 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and all departments
 17 and agencies with energy-related duties and responsibilities
 18 support the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy
 19 Office in this endeavor; and

20
 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
 22 is requested to update the Legislature annually, no later than
 23 twenty days before the convening of each Regular Session, on the
 24 status of the engagement and the terms of any proposed
 25 agreement; and

26
 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 29 Secretary of Energy; members of Hawaii's Congressional
 30 Delegation; Governor; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State
 31 Energy Office; and Director of Business, Economic Development,
 32 and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY: *Lynn DeCrite*

