

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO RESPOND TO HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC'S REQUEST TO SUSPEND, DEPRIORITIZE, AND DELAY THE COMMENCEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS THROUGH PHASE 2, TRANCHE 2 OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM AND ORDER HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC TO CONTINUE TO DEPLOY AND PURSUE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BASED UPON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S FINDINGS.

1 WHEREAS, section 269-27.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 requires each electric utility to file a proposed community-  
3 based renewable energy tariff or tariffs with the Public  
4 Utilities Commission by October 1, 2015, and establish a  
5 community-based renewable energy tariff or tariffs, provided  
6 that the tariff or tariffs are found to be in the public  
7 interest; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects are  
10 allowed to utilize public utilities' transmission infrastructure  
11 to provide energy to subscribers that may live in a different  
12 area from where the renewable energy is being produced; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects allow  
15 those who are unable to install solar energy systems because of  
16 cost restraints, because they do not own their residence, or  
17 because they reside in condominiums or other properties that  
18 cannot accommodate the systems; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy, or "shared  
21 solar", can help the State decrease its reliance on fossil fuels  
22 and move toward energy independence and make the transition to  
23 renewable energy more equitable regardless of income; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, community-based renewable energy projects can also  
26 allow subscribers to lower their electric bills without making  
27 large, upfront investments of financial resources and can



1 benefit underserved groups, specifically seniors and low- to  
2 moderate-income families; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, approximately five community-based renewable  
5 energy projects have been installed since 2015, and thirteen  
6 community-based renewable energy projects in Phase 2, Tranche 1  
7 were to be installed from 2024 to 2026; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Public Utilities Commission  
10 directed Hawaiian Electric to provide a status update regarding  
11 the impact of the August 2023 Maui wildfires on its Community-  
12 Based Renewable Energy Program; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in the November 15, 2023 status update, Hawaiian  
15 Electric notes that although the Community-Based Renewable  
16 Energy Program was not directly impacted by the August 2023 Maui  
17 wildfires, the customer management aspect of the Program  
18 requires additional time to develop after commercial operations  
19 in order to draw and apply lessons from it to Phase 2, Tranche 2  
20 of the Program, which would establish additional community-based  
21 renewable energy projects; Hawaiian Electric therefore  
22 recommends that Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Program be paused,  
23 deprioritized, and delayed to allow for completion of existing  
24 projects to commercial operation and to continue to identify and  
25 evaluate lessons learned from Phase 1 and Phase 2, Tranche 1 of  
26 the Program; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has not yet  
29 responded to Hawaiian Electric's recommendation as set forth in  
30 its November 15, 2023 update; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, this body believes that Hawaiian Electric has had  
33 more than eight years to prepare for the implementation of its  
34 Community-Based Renewable Energy Program, has taken best  
35 practices for implementation from numerous other states, and  
36 does not require any additional time to continue deployment of  
37 shared solar to those communities in great need; now, therefore,

38  
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities  
42 Commission is requested to respond to Hawaiian Electric's



1 request to suspend, deprioritize, and delay the commencement of  
2 community-based renewable energy projects through Phase 2,  
3 Tranche 2 of the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
6 is requested to issue informational requests to Hawaiian  
7 Electric for further details and clarification as to the  
8 specific reasons and timing for its request to suspend,  
9 deprioritize, and delay this important program that can help  
10 communities that need it the most; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
13 is requested to issue informational requests to Hawaiian  
14 Electric to determine a reasonable date for recommencing the  
15 continued procurement of community-based renewable energy  
16 projects; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
19 is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to continue the  
20 deployment of community-based renewable energy projects through  
21 Phase 2, Tranche 2 of the Community-Based Renewable Energy  
22 Program based upon the Public Utilities Commission's  
23 determination of a reasonable date; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
26 is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to revoke the suspension  
27 of procurement and continue to issue requests for proposals for  
28 the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program based upon its  
29 findings; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
33 Public Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive  
34 Officer of Hawaiian Electric.  
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OFFERED BY: 

