
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ORDER HAWAIIAN
ELECTRIC TO CONTINUE TO DEPLOY AND PURSUE COMMUNITY-BASED
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

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

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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

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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

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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

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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
28 benefit underserved groups, specifically seniors and low- to
29 moderate- income families; and

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31 WHEREAS, approximately five community-based renewable
32 energy projects have been installed since 2015, and thirteen



1 community-based renewable energy projects in Phase 2, Tranche 1
2 were to be installed from 2024 to 2026; and

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4 WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Public Utilities Commission
5 directed Hawaiian Electric to provide a status update regarding
6 the impact of the Maui wildfires on its Community-Based
7 Renewable Energy Program; and

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

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

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2024, that the Public Utilities Commission is
32 requested to order Hawaiian Electric to continue the deployment
33 of community-based renewable energy projects through Phase 2,
34 Tranche 2 of the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
37 is requested to order Hawaiian Electric to revoke the suspension
38 of procurement and continue to issue requests for proposals for
39 the Community-Based Renewable Energy Program; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public



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1 Utilities Commission and President and Chief Executive Officer
2 of Hawaiian Electric.

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OFFERED BY:

Mauro E. Lora

MAR 07 2024

