



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 11, 2022

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Governor Ige:

I am writing to respectfully request that you declare a state of emergency by proclamation under Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 127A-14. Chapter 127A-13(2) grants you the power to "relieve hardships and inequities, or obstructions to the public health, safety, or welfare found by the governor to exist in the laws." A suspension of Act 23(2020) that bans the use of coal across the State must be deemed an emergency until Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) is able to procure and distribute cost-effective renewable energy resources consistent with intent of Act 23.

In March of 2022, HECO announced electricity bills would increase for Oahu customers an estimated 10% and an increase for Hawaii Island and Maui County customers by approximately 20%. This past Sunday, on August 7, 2022, HECO announced a second and additional 7% increase in residential electricity prices on Oahu. The increases are based on the cost of oil at approximately 30 cents per kilowatt hour compared to 6 cents for coal.

Per HECO, it has had to turn to oil as a result of a delay with renewable energy projects. However, HECO's reliance on oil results in residential households and businesses left to carry the burden. The soaring oil prices due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and rising inflation were unknown factors in 2020 when Act 23 was approved. The fact that Hawaii's families are already doing what is necessary to reduce their energy uses while still paying the most in the nation for household electricity is unsustainable. An emergency suspension on the shutdown of the AES plant is necessary until supply chain issues and other factors delaying renewable energy projects are resolved.

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The State's goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by preventing the use of coal was based on the intent of striving for clean and renewal energy for Hawaii. However, until renewable energy projects are online to provide cleaner sources of energy and long-term price stability, the continued use of fossil fuels, like oil, does little to support the State's goal of reducing emissions and improving air quality standards.

Thank you for your attention to this emergency request. Should you have questions or concerns, I am available to meet with you to discuss this matter in further detail.

Sincerely,



Senator Kurt Fevella
State of Hawaii, District 19
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader

State Capitol, Room 217
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6360
Fax: (808) 586-6361
senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov