

University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
R E S O L U T I O N

**Requesting the Administration of the University of Hawai‘i
to Pursue an Adjusted Utility Rate Structure for Institutions
of Higher Education from the Hawaiian Electric Company,
Inc.**

WHEREAS, one of the major costs associated with operations of the ten-campus University of Hawai‘i System (“University”) is the cost of electricity, which amounted to approximately \$46,500,000 in fiscal year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, in concert with the State energy goals of reducing energy consumption and achieving 100% renewable energy generation by 2045, the University has worked actively to control its electricity costs through actions such as energy efficiency and conservation efforts, increased renewable energy production, and decreased energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, the University has also embarked on an ambitious goal of becoming net-zero with respect to energy use by January 1, 2035, meaning that it would produce as much renewable energy as it consumes across all ten campuses to a 2015 baseline by this date; and

WHEREAS, although the University has only achieved six percent of its net-zero energy goals to date, it has simultaneously experienced overall increases in renewable energy production as well as year-over-year decreases in utility purchased energy since fiscal year 2015, with significant improvements anticipated in the near future as an increasing number of photovoltaic energy production projects are energized; and

WHEREAS, among the ten campuses of the University, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (“UHM”), including but not limited to the main campus in addition to offsite affiliates, such as the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Cancer Center, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the Waikīkī Aquarium, is the largest consumer of utility-purchased energy, consuming a total of 145,403,480 kWh of electricity in fiscal year 2019-2020 at a total cost of nearly \$35 million; and

WHEREAS, as an R1 research university with an average campus population of 23,000 on any given day, the energy needs of UHM are immense with many of its research facilities, laboratories, dormitories, and information technology centers requiring 24-hour energy usage, primarily for air conditioning; and

WHEREAS, as large consumers of electricity, several institutes of higher education have embarked on efforts to lower electric utility costs through the negotiation of lower rates from electric utility providers based upon the volume of electricity consumed; and

WHEREAS, UHM has a working relationship with the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (“HECO”); and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Regents (“Board”) recognizes that among the core priorities of the University are to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy production, as well as decrease operational costs associated with utilities, particularly given the current fiscal situation of the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University administration is requested to encourage HECO to adopt an adjusted rate structure that reduces the overall cost of energy for state institutions of higher education, including but not limited to a maximum charge for fixed costs, and report its progress on this request at the November 2021 Board meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection; Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chair of the Public Utilities Commission; Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Chief Energy Officer of the Hawai'i State Energy Office; and President and Chief Executive Officer of HECO.

Adopted by the Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i
May 20, 2021