
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII
AUTHORITY'S DEEP SEAWATER PUMPING SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
2 (NELHA) was created with the intent to facilitate research and
3 development of natural energy resources and ocean-related
4 research; and

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6 WHEREAS, NELHA is in the unique position, not just in the
7 State of Hawaii, but in the world, to develop and produce three
8 very basic needs: food, energy, and healthcare; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State has invested nearly \$70,000,000 into
11 NELHA infrastructure over a period of more than 30 years; and

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13 WHEREAS, NELHA pumps deep, cold, and pure seawater from
14 waters 2000-feet deep off the coast of the island of Hawaii for
15 use by its commercial tenants, and for energy production and air
16 conditioning; and

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18 WHEREAS, currently, more than 90 percent of the
19 approximately 14,500 gallons of this seawater is used by its
20 aquaculture tenants each minute; and

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22 WHEREAS, the rate structure for pumped seawater should be
23 reasonably set; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2008, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a
28 financial and management audit of the deep seawater pumping
29 system operated by NELHA, with the goal of evaluating the rate
30 structure for pumped seawater and, if necessary, determining a
31 reasonable rate structure; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NELHA is requested to freeze the rate that it charges for pumped seawater at the level in effect on the enrollment date of this resolution, until the Auditor completes the audit, at which time it is requested to implement the rate structure recommended by the Auditor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Department of Agriculture, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, and the Hawaii Aquaculture Association.

OFFERED BY:

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