

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822

Senate Resolution 19-16

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO A NEXTERA-HEI MERGER

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS*, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 14,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS*, residents of Hawaii currently pay three times more than the national average in energy bills;¹ and,
- WHEREAS* fossil fuels currently produce more than 80% of all electricity production in Hawaii;² and,
- WHEREAS* as many as 12% of all homes in Hawaii have rooftop solar panels,³ and the State of Hawaii is currently ranked 1st in the nation in solar energy capacity per capita⁴; and,
- WHEREAS*, Hawaii State Legislature HB 623 (2015) has committed the state to 70% renewable energy by 2035, including 40 percent from renewables and 30 percent from efficiency, and 100% percent renewable energy by 2045; and,
- WHEREAS*, Hawaii State Legislature HB 1509 (2015) has committed the University of Hawaii to a goal of becoming net-zero with respect to energy use by 2035; and,
- WHEREAS*, in December 2015, Florida-based NextEra Energy (NextEra) company proposed to merge with Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI); and,
- WHEREAS* in 2014, NextEra utility subsidiary Florida Power and Light produced less than 1% of its energy from renewable sources;⁵ and,
- WHEREAS*, while NextEra has promised economic benefits to Hawaii energy consumers, including \$133 million in rate savings,⁶ those benefits have been labeled “illusory and inadequate” by the Consumer Advocate of the State of Hawaii;⁷ and,
- WHEREAS*, while NextEra has committed to no involuntary layoffs for the first two years, it has also stated that the HEI workforce “will need to be reduced in due course”;⁸ and,

¹ <http://www.uhero.hawaii.edu/news/view/273>

² <http://energy.hawaii.gov/resources/dashboard-statistics>

³ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/19/business/energy-environment/solar-power-battle-puts-hawaii-at-forefront-of-worldwide-changes.html>

⁴ <http://www.seia.org/research-resources/2014-top-10-solar-states>

⁵ <http://cleantechnica.com/2013/06/25/solar-power-by-state-solar-rankings-by-state/>

⁶ <http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2015/07/13/nextera-energy-outlines-economic-impact-of.html>

⁷ <http://www.civilbeat.com/2015/08/hawaii-consumer-advocate-state-should-reject-nextera-heco-merger/>

⁸ <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/30790409/nexteras-cfo-talks-about-potential-job-cuts>

THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED BY THE SENATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ASUH opposes the merging of HEI and NextEra and requests the Public Utilities Commission to reject the merger proposition; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUH believes that the merger of NextEra and HEI will hinder the sustainability goals of the University of Hawai'i as well as the renewable energy goals of the State of Hawaii, as stated in HB 623 (2015) and HB 1509 (2015); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUH strongly supports a robust hiring market for the young people of Hawaii, in which HECO has been an active participant and therefore opposes reduction in Hawaii's critical mass of job opportunities for UH graduates; and now, therefore,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to:
the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Chair Randy Moore and Members, President David Lassner, UHM Interim Chancellor Robert-Bley Vroman, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock, UHM Dean of the College of Social Sciences Denise Konan, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Maria Gallo, UHM Sustainability Council, UH System Sustainability Council, UH Office of Sustainability, UHM Graduate Student Organization, Ka Leo O Hawai'i, and the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii.

Introducers: Mark Ryan, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences; Jessica Sevilla, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences; Sierra Callihan, Senator-at-Large; Todd Simeroth, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences; Kelsey Barrow, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences

ROLL CALL VOTE

Aye(s): Vice President Kamoshida, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Tagaban, Senators-at-Large Callihan, Dela Cruz, Nishihara, Senators Aki, Bui, Chen, Hinshaw, Ikeda, Lao, Lawi-an, Lopez, Omokawa, Rafael, Ryan, Simeroth, Tacey, Turner, Yamada [21]

Naye(s): Senator-at-Large Mitsui, Senator Caramat, Kim [3]

Abstains: Senators Enriquez, Garma [2]

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