
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST BIG OIL CORPORATIONS FOR CLIMATE DAMAGES TO THE STATE AND ENGAGE A THIRD-PARTY LAW FIRM THAT HAS EXPERTISE IN THIS LEGAL AREA.

1 WHEREAS, big oil companies often engage in practices to
2 purposefully deceive the public about their negative
3 environmental impact to further their business objectives and
4 profits; and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the Columbia Center on Sustainable
7 Investment, big oil companies such as BP, Chevron, Eni,
8 ExxonMobil, Shell, and Total Energies jointly account for nearly
9 twenty-three percent of the cumulative global carbon footprint
10 of the oil refining sector, which reflects a significant market
11 concentration; and

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13 WHEREAS, this enormous carbon footprint, or calculated
14 amount of greenhouse gas emissions that an activity, person,
15 country, or company adds to the atmosphere irrefutably leads to
16 global warming and climate change; and

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18 WHEREAS, climate change has burdened the State with
19 enormous costs to fix severe damages to state infrastructure due
20 to sea level rise and state marine resources due to ocean
21 acidification and warming; and

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23 WHEREAS, climate change has resulted in further costs to
24 the State for the need to air condition schools, libraries, and
25 other state buildings or recover from more frequent and intense
26 environmental disasters; and

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28 WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Hawaii Supreme Court rejected
29 claims made by defendants in a City and County of Honolulu



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1 lawsuit that big oil and gas companies do not fall within state
 2 court jurisdiction and that there is no public nuisance claim
 3 for a climate damages case under Hawaii law; and
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5 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County's
 6 current lawsuits against big oil companies are limited to the
 7 costs to those counties and do not address climate change costs
 8 to the State; and
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10 WHEREAS, currently, nine other state attorney generals have
 11 filed similar lawsuits against big oil companies in the United
 12 States; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 16 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Attorney
 17 General is requested to file a lawsuit against big oil
 18 corporations for climate damages to the State and engage a
 19 third-party law firm that has expertise in this legal area; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
 23 Attorney General.
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OFFERED BY: *Lisa Motes*
 MAR 08 2024

