

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE 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

12  
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

17  
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



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 Senate of the Thirty-second  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Attorney General  
17 is requested to file a lawsuit against big oil corporations for  
18 climate damages to the State and engage a third-party law firm  
19 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: 

