
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION TO FORM A HAWAII CLIMATE ASSESSMENT TASK
FORCE TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL
WARMING ON THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on
2 Climate Change has concluded that the global climate is warming
3 and projects an increase in global mean surface temperatures of
4 two to six degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the 21st century,
5 leading to an increase in the sea level of six to 37 inches; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's sea level has risen six to 14 inches per
8 century, and is expected to rise another 17 to 25 inches by
9 2100, resulting in flooding of low-lying property, erosion of
10 beautiful beaches, saltwater contamination of our drinking
11 water, and decreased longevity of low-lying roads, causeways,
12 and bridges; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii would be directly affected by worsening
15 global weather patterns that can cause potentially catastrophic
16 effects on coastal areas; and
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18 WHEREAS, recent weather patterns have created warming
19 trends that have jeopardized the health and well-being of
20 residents of communities and the natural resources on which they
21 rely; and
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23 WHEREAS, the recent heavy rains, flooding, and erosion have
24 negatively affected all communities across the state as well as
25 the state's agricultural and tourism industries by causing
26 substantial damage to property, and have resulted in the tragic
27 loss of lives; and
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29 WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan to address, prevent, or
30 mitigate negative effects of climate change and address economic
31 effects on the state will help save lives, protect public



1 health, preserve economic and resource development, and protect
2 valuable infrastructure; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
7 Health's Environmental Health Administration is requested to
8 establish a task force to devise a comprehensive plan to address
9 the negative effects of climate change and global warming on the
10 welfare and economy of the state; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
13 13 members as follows:

- 14
15 (1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate
16 President;
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18 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed
19 by the Speaker of the House;
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21 (3) The Deputy Director of the Department of Health's
22 Environmental Health Administration or the Deputy
23 Director's designee;
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25 (4) A member from the University of Hawaii's (UH) School
26 of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology;
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28 (5) A member from UH's Environmental Center;
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30 (6) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
31 Tourism or the Director's designee;
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33 (7) The Director of the Department of Business, Economic
34 Development, and Tourism's (DBEDT) Office of Planning
35 or the Director's designee;
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37 (8) The Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
38 or the Chair's designee;
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40 (9) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
41 designee; and

42 (10) Two representatives from environmental-related
43 organizations;



1
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
5 include the following in its comprehensive plan:

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7 (1) An assessment of the current and potential effects of
8 climate-warming trends on residents, natural
9 resources, public health, and economy of the state, in
10 particular the adverse effects on natural resource
11 development, transportation, community, and resource
12 development infrastructures;
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14 (2) An estimate of the costs to the state and its
15 residents of the adverse effects associated with
16 climate change and global warming;
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18 (3) Identification of the specific circumstances of
19 flooding and erosion that have affected life,
20 property, and economic and resource development in the
21 state;
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23 (4) Examination of alternative measures to prevent and
24 mitigate the effects of flooding and erosion; and
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26 (5) Recommended policies to decrease the negative effects
27 of climate change and global warming;

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29 and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force offer
32 recommendations and provide suggested solutions and preventive
33 measures that can be implemented by the county and state
34 governments; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a
37 preliminary report of its findings to the Legislature no later
38 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
39 2008, and submit a final report to the Legislature no later than
40 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009,
41 including proposed legislation; and

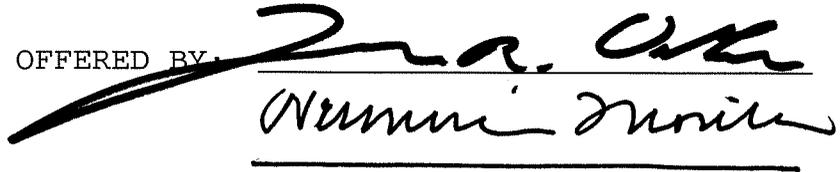


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
3 of Health, Director of Business, Economic Development, and
4 Tourism, Director of the Office of Planning, Chair of the Board
5 of Land and Natural Resources, Dean of UH's Schools of Ocean &
6 Earth Science & Technology, and the Director of UH's
7 Environmental Center.

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OFFERED BY:


Nannu Mui

MAR 14 2007

