
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL WITH FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER 12898 CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

1 WHEREAS, many studies have found that businesses that
2 generate toxic waste are disproportionately located in low-
3 income and minority communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated that there is a
6 correlation with race and income in the concentration of air
7 pollution, location of municipal landfills and incinerators,
8 number of abandoned toxic waste dumps, and incidence of lead
9 poisoning in children; and
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11 WHEREAS, environmental clean-up efforts disproportionately
12 benefit white Americans over people of color; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order
15 12898, requiring each federal agency to "make achieving
16 environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and
17 addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse
18 human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies,
19 and activities on minority populations and low-income
20 populations in the United States and its territories and
21 possessions..."; and
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23 WHEREAS, in March 2004, the Inspector General of the
24 Environmental Protection Agency reported that the agency is not
25 doing an effective job enforcing environmental justice; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency lacks plans,
28 goals, and performance measures and has even proposed redefining
29 "environmental justice" to exclude consideration of race and
30 income level; and
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1 WHEREAS, the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina has further
2 revealed catastrophic inadequacies in environmental precautions
3 for minority communities; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
8 expresses disapproval with the failure of the Environmental
9 Protection Agency and the Bush Administration to enforce
10 Executive Order 12898; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Environmental Protection
13 Agency is strongly urged to develop plans, goals, and
14 performance standards to carry out Executive Order 12898 and
15 effect environmental justice in minority and low-income areas;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the
20 United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of
21 the United States of America, the Majority Leader of the United
22 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
23 Representatives, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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