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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEWING CHAPTERS 341, 343, AND 344, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPACT OF REQUIRING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO INCLUDE EFFECTS OF A PROPOSED ACTION AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

1           WHEREAS, the potential adverse impacts of climate change  
2 and global warming include a rise in sea levels and risk  
3 associated with hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, flooding,  
4 wildfires, and other natural and technological hazards resulting  
5 in the displacement of businesses and residences and damage to  
6 marine ecosystems and the natural environment; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the effects will not only impact the health and  
9 safety of Hawaii's residents, but also ripple through the  
10 state's economy as some of Hawaii's largest industries,  
11 including tourism, agriculture, recreational and commercial  
12 fishing, and forestry, are adversely affected; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the leading contributor to global warming and  
15 climate change is the release of carbon emissions and other  
16 greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and the recent increases  
17 in fossil fuel demand and industrialization worldwide have  
18 served to increase such emissions and hasten adverse climate  
19 change; and  
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21           WHEREAS, Chapters 341, 343, and 344, Hawaii Revised  
22 Statutes, the basis of Hawaii's environmental review process,  
23 have protected the state's environment for over 30 years; and  
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25           WHEREAS, notwithstanding the success of these laws,  
26 concerns have arisen regarding the ability of this process to  
27 adapt to the modern demands for achieving sustainability in  
28 Hawaii in a way that appropriately balances the state economy,  
29 environment, and social conditions over the long term; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in addition, best practices for environmental  
2 assessments, globally and nationally, have changed dramatically  
3 since Hawaii's laws were written, and Hawaii has not optimized  
4 the opportunities to learn from these developments; and  
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6 WHEREAS, our environmental review process must continue to  
7 evolve and improve, encouraging and adopting best practices for  
8 agencies, planners, businesses, and affected communities as well  
9 as for the courts, to promote sustainability in Hawaii and  
10 protect our unique and fragile natural ecosystem and resources;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, a study of our environmental review process that  
14 was previously mandated by the Legislature in Act 294, Session  
15 Laws of 2006, was not completed due to a lapse in the  
16 appropriation for the Department of Health; and  
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18 WHEREAS, recent judicial and legislative events surrounding  
19 the Superferry underscore the pressing need to continue to  
20 pursue the completion of a study, with a broad focus, that will  
21 assist in the development of a broad strategy to modernize  
22 Hawaii's environmental review system; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) will enter  
25 into a contract with the University of Hawaii (UH) to conduct a  
26 study of the state's environmental review process, and also  
27 requires UH, through the Research Corporation of UH, to  
28 establish an interdisciplinary team of faculty, researchers, and  
29 students from the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning,  
30 Environmental Center, and the environmental law program at the  
31 William S. Richardson School of Law, among other technical  
32 experts in the field of environmental management and planning;  
33 and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Research Corporation of UH and the  
36 interdisciplinary team, in conducting their study, should also  
37 consider a proposal discussed during this legislative session  
38 that would require an environmental impact statement (EIS) to  
39 include effects of a proposed action as a contributor to climate  
40 change; now, therefore,  
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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
43 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
44 Session of 2008, that the Research Corporation of UH and the



1 interdisciplinary team reviewing Chapters 341, 343, and 344,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, are requested to review the feasibility  
3 and impact of requiring an EIS to include effects of a proposed  
4 action as a contributor to climate change; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative  
8 Reference Bureau, President of the University of Hawaii, and  
9 Director of the Research Corporation of the University of  
10 Hawaii.  
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