
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A NETWORK OF
SCIENTISTS IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE INPUT ON AND SCIENTIFIC
ANALYSIS OF POLICIES UNDER LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION.

1 WHEREAS, historically, science has played a pivotal role in
2 government, ensuring that decisions made by policymakers to
3 advance health, safety, and environmental protection will
4 benefit the world and its citizens; and
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6 WHEREAS, in the late 1970s, concern about toxic waste dumps
7 at Love Canal and Valley of the Drums led to the Comprehensive
8 Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980,
9 which generates funds to clean up waterways to this day; and
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11 WHEREAS, as the result of the 1987 Montreal Protocol
12 agreement among one hundred ninety-seven countries to stop the
13 production of products containing ozone-depleting
14 chlorofluorocarbons, the hole in the ozone is shrinking and is
15 now the smallest it has been since 1988;
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17 WHEREAS, in 1988, the World Health Organization adopted a
18 resolution to eradicate polio, leading to a decrease in the
19 number of annual reported cases from an estimated three hundred
20 fifty thousand in 1988 to thirty-seven in 2016; and
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22 WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2018, President Donald Trump
23 proposed to reduce funding for scientific research and cut the
24 budget of the Environmental Protection Agency by more than
25 \$2,700,000; and
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27 WHEREAS, the federal government has taken action to suspend
28 and eventually rescind or revise the Clean Water Rule, which
29 would have enhanced the environmental protections provided by
30 the Clean Water Act; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the position of the Director of the Office of
3 Science and Technology Policy, colloquially known as the
4 President's Science Advisor, has been vacant since Presidential
5 inauguration day, the longest vacancy of that position since its
6 establishment; and
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8 WHEREAS, scientific analysis now remains the responsibility
9 of the states, as federal focus on and funds for science have
10 decreased; and
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12 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii and other departments of
13 the State have historically played an important role in the
14 advancement of science and policy for Hawaii and the world; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 1988, University of Hawaii researchers
17 successfully established a deep ocean observation station
18 regarded as one of the best-sampled places in the world and, in
19 doing so, compiled a decades-long record of how the ocean
20 responds to climate change; and
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22 WHEREAS, carbon dioxide measurements taken at Mauna Loa
23 since 1958 are now entering an important new phase as they
24 monitor global efforts to curb greenhouse gas pollution in
25 accordance with the Paris Agreement; and
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27 WHEREAS, in 2017, University of Hawaii researchers
28 participated in one of the most significant astronomical
29 discoveries when they observed a kilonova explosion, the
30 observations and study of which fundamentally affected our
31 understanding of the origin of many of the elements on Earth;
32 now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii is
37 requested to develop a network of scientists in the State to
38 provide input on and scientific analysis of policies under
39 legislative consideration; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
42 requested to develop the network for the purpose of ensuring



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1 that decisions made by the Legislature are based upon the most
2 objective and best available scientific research and data; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
6 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of
7 the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and President
8 of the University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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