

MAR 09 2018

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DECREASE OF MILITARY SPENDING AND REALLOCATION OF  
FEDERAL FUNDS TO INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN ADDRESSING  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN HEALTH CONCERNS AND FOR DEBT  
REDUCTION.

1 WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change, including extreme  
2 weather events, droughts, flooding, sea level rise, retreating  
3 glaciers, habitat shifts, and the increased spread of life-  
4 threatening disease, are a serious threat to the United States'  
5 national security and to global peace and stability; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review categorizes  
8 the adverse impacts of a changing climate as "threat  
9 multipliers," escalating security threats abroad, such as  
10 poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and  
11 social tensions; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the prioritization of military spending over  
14 environmental investment and protection is a real and severe  
15 threat to the people of Hawaii and other Americans; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, while the President of the United States has  
18 proposed a \$54,000,000,000 increase in military spending, polls  
19 indicate that the majority of Americans strongly favor a  
20 reduction of \$41,000,000,000; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the United States military budget is bigger than  
23 the next eight nations' military expenditures combined, six of  
24 which are recognized allies to the United States; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the United States national debt stands at  
27 \$19,900,000,000,000; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, increased military expenditures are inhibiting the  
30 ability of the United States to effectively address modern  
31 environmental challenges, including the nation's ability to



1 mitigate and adapt to climate change and its adverse impacts;  
2 and  
3

4 WHEREAS, investment in national and international  
5 environmental issues, especially concerning climate change,  
6 constitutes an effective and necessary conflict-prevention  
7 measure against the destabilizing and potentially violent  
8 impacts of climate change and environmental degradation; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the de-escalation of armed conflict abroad is a  
11 critical step to alleviate the global refugee crisis and reduce  
12 the number of refugees petitioning for asylum status in the  
13 United States; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, Hawaii, as the only island-state in the nation, is  
16 highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change, such as  
17 heightened natural weather events and sea-level rise; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii remains an important  
20 geostrategic military partner for national policy aims in the  
21 Pacific and Asian region; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, this body recognizes climate change as real and as  
24 the overriding challenge of the twenty-first century, posing  
25 immediate and long-term threats to the State's economy,  
26 sustainability, security, and way of life; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the 2017 National Security Strategy affirms the  
29 advancement of a national approach that balances energy  
30 security, economic development, and environmental protection  
31 that will allow the United States to remain a global leader in  
32 pollution reduction, including greenhouse gases; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives' 2017  
35 Republican Climate Resolution observed that climate change will  
36 have "noticeable, negative impacts that are expected to worsen  
37 in every region of the United States and its territories" and  
38 that "increased pollutants and other factors contribute to  
39 local, regional, and national environmental and human health  
40 impacts"; and  
41



1 WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate the risks of, prepare for, or  
2 adapt to our changing climate and its effects "will not  
3 constrain the United States economy, especially in regards to  
4 global competitiveness" as affirmed by the 2017 Republican  
5 Climate Resolution; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the prioritization of funds to environmental  
8 security solutions from general military expenditures is a  
9 viable, convincing, and ultimately necessary national security  
10 strategy; now, therefore,

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the  
15 United States and members of the United States Congress are  
16 strongly urged to immediately decrease military expenditures and  
17 reallocate federal funds to increased environmental and human  
18 protection and debt reduction; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national security  
21 consequences of climate change must be fully integrated into  
22 national security and national defense strategies, and  
23 explicitly address the threat of climate change to our national  
24 security interests; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States should commit  
27 to a stronger national and international role to assist with  
28 global stabilization of climate change to avoid significant  
29 disruption to global security and stability; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States should commit  
32 to global partnerships and cooperation with its allies that  
33 address modern environmental challenges, such as global  
34 industrialization and transboundary air and water pollution, and  
35 develop the capacity and resiliency to better mitigate and  
36 manage adverse climate impacts; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
40 United States, United States Secretary of Energy, United States  
41 Secretary of Defense, Chairperson of the United States Senate  
42 Committee on Natural Resources, Chairperson of the United States



# S.C.R. NO. 119

1 Senate Committee on Armed Services, Chairperson of the United  
2 States House Committee on Natural Resources, and Chairperson of  
3 the United States House Committee on Armed Services.  
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