

MAR 09 2018

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## SENATE 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  
32 mitigate and adapt to climate change and its adverse impacts;  
33 and  
34



1 WHEREAS, investment in national and international  
2 environmental issues, especially concerning climate change,  
3 constitutes an effective and necessary conflict-prevention  
4 measure against the destabilizing and potentially violent  
5 impacts of climate change and environmental degradation; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the de-escalation of armed conflict abroad is a  
8 critical step to alleviate the global refugee crisis and reduce  
9 the number of refugees petitioning for asylum status in the  
10 United States; and  
11

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

16 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii remains an important  
17 geostrategic military partner for national policy aims in the  
18 Pacific and Asian region; and  
19

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate the risks of, prepare for, or  
40 adapt to our changing climate and its effects "will not  
41 constrain the United States economy, especially in regards to



1 global competitiveness" as affirmed by the 2017 Republican  
2 Climate Resolution; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the prioritization of funds to environmental  
5 security solutions from general military expenditures is a  
6 viable, convincing, and ultimately necessary national security  
7 strategy; now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
11 that the President of the United States and members of the  
12 United States Congress are strongly urged to immediately  
13 decrease military expenditures and reallocate federal funds to  
14 increased environmental and human protection and debt reduction;  
15 and  
16

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

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

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

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



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

Kal Rhoads

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