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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THAT THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE OF HAWAII AND TO THE NATION, REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO REFRAIN FROM WITHDRAWING THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND REQUESTING THAT THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO BLOCK THE PRESIDENT'S WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

1           WHEREAS, in December 2015, representatives of one hundred  
2 ninety-seven nations who are parties to the United Nation's  
3 Framework Convention on Climate Change (Convention) completed a  
4 proposed agreement, known as the Paris Agreement, to take  
5 comprehensive action to drastically reduce greenhouse gas  
6 emissions, with the following principal provisions:

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8           (1) Long-term temperature goal: the agreement reaffirms  
9 the goal of limiting global mean temperature increase  
10 to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial  
11 levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase  
12 to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

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14           (2) Global peaking and "climate neutrality": to achieve  
15 the temperature goal, parties will strive to reach  
16 global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as  
17 possible, recognizing peaking will take longer for  
18 developing country parties, so as to achieve a balance  
19 (net zero emissions) between anthropogenic emissions  
20 by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases  
21 in the second half of the century;

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23           (3) Mitigation: the agreement establishes binding  
24 commitments by all parties to prepare, communicate,  
25 and maintain a nationally determined contribution; to  
26 pursue domestic measures to achieve them; and to



1           communicate revised, higher nationally determined  
2           contributions every five years;

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4           (4) Adaptation: the agreement establishes a global goal  
5           for adaptation, including enhancing adaptive capacity,  
6           strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to  
7           climate change in the context of the temperature goal;  
8           and

9  
10          (5) Financial support: the Paris Agreement reaffirms the  
11          obligations of developed countries to support the  
12          efforts of developing country parties to build clean,  
13          climate resilient futures, while for the first time  
14          encouraging voluntary contributions by other parties;  
15          and

16  
17          WHEREAS, on November 4, 2016, the Paris Agreement took  
18          effect, after having been ratified by at least fifty-five  
19          parties to the Convention, including the United States,  
20          accounting in total for at least an estimated fifty-five percent  
21          of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2020, one  
22          hundred eighty-nine of the nations who are parties to the  
23          Convention have ratified the Paris Agreement; and

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25          WHEREAS, in 2017, the Hawaii State Legislature enacted  
26          Act 32, Session Laws 2017, which among other things created the  
27          Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and  
28          committed the State to contribute to the achievement of the  
29          Paris Agreement goals; and

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31          WHEREAS, in June, 2017, President Donald Trump announced  
32          his intention for the United States to withdraw from the Paris  
33          Agreement; and on November 4, 2019, U.S. Secretary of State  
34          Michael Pompeo gave notice to the Convention of the intent of  
35          the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, with the  
36          withdrawal to become effective on November 4, 2020 (the day  
37          after the 2020 presidential election); and

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39          WHEREAS, a U.S. withdrawal is likely to have a serious  
40          detrimental impact on the future implementation of the Paris  
41          Agreement, which relies on the voluntary commitments of its  
42          member nations; and under the approach, as taken by the Paris





H.C.R. NO. 161

[Signature]

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Chairman

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