

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE 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:

7
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;

13
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;

22
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;

3
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

24
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

30
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

38
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



1 Agreement, major developing nations, such as China - the world's
 2 largest greenhouse gas emitter - and India, were induced for the
 3 first time to make commitments to reduce greenhouse gas
 4 emissions. The prospective withdrawal of the United States, the
 5 world's second largest emitter, threatens to reverse the initial
 6 momentum under the Paris Agreement and to embolden other nations
 7 to renounce or delay their own commitments; now, therefore,

8
 9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 10 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 11 Representatives concurring, that the Legislature affirms that
 12 the continued participation of the United States in the Paris
 13 Agreement is of paramount importance to the State of Hawaii, to
 14 the nation, and the world; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
 17 States shall be respectfully requested, through the transmittal
 18 of a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution, to refrain
 19 from withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and to instead commit
 20 the United States to good faith efforts to meet its obligations
 21 under the Paris Agreement; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Majority Leader of the U.S.
 24 Senate and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives be
 25 requested, through the transmittal of a certified copy of this
 26 Concurrent Resolution, to take all action necessary to block the
 27 President's intended withdrawal of the United States from the
 28 Paris Agreement; and

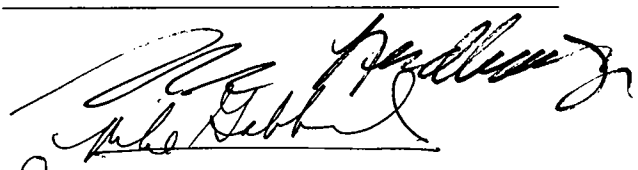
29
 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the
 32 President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the U.S.
 33 Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the
 34 Congressional Delegation of the State of Hawaii, the Governor,
 35 and each member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and
 36 Adaptation Commission.

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OFFERED BY:









S.C.R. NO. 184

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