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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE  
COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND  
EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

1           WHEREAS, global warming has now raised the average global  
2 air temperature about one degree Celsius, and scientists have  
3 documented that this extra heat is already having a dramatic  
4 impact on the environment, such as larger and stronger  
5 hurricanes, increased drought and flooding, shifting rain  
6 patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more acidic  
7 ocean, and damaged ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial,  
8 across the planet; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent  
11 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,  
12 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above  
13 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the  
14 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and  
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16           WHEREAS, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists  
17 published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse  
18 gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's  
19 ecosystems to their breaking point"; and  
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21           WHEREAS, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty six  
22 countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming  
23 that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will  
24 now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve  
25 our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and  
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27           WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas  
28 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate  
29 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, which  
30 is ten years earlier than projected by the 2014



1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and two  
2 degrees Celsius by 2045; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and  
5 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences  
6 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby  
7 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of residents and  
8 visitors, warranting preemptive and protective action; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public  
11 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of  
12 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, 1,864 jurisdictions in thirty-three countries have  
15 already declared a climate emergency as of January 26, 2021;  
16 now, therefore,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
20 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body acknowledges that  
21 an existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the  
22 natural world, declares a climate emergency, and requests  
23 statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and  
24 emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and  
27 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:

28  
29 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a  
30 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean  
31 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a  
32 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the  
33 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and  
34 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will  
35 transform the economy; and

36  
37 (2) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and  
38 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric  
39 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the  
40 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;  
41 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-  
42 friendly land use; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide  
2 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,  
3 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the  
4 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,  
5 land, food, education, and shelter; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure  
8 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any  
9 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary  
10 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of  
11 declared emergency; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney  
15 General; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;  
16 Director of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and  
17 County of Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

