
HOUSE 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
15

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
20

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
26

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide
42 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,



1 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the
2 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,
3 land, food, education, and shelter; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
6 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
7 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary
8 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of
9 declared emergency; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;
13 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director
14 of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and County of
15 Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

