
SENATE 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, as demonstrated through larger and
5 stronger hurricanes, increased drought and flooding, shifting
6 rain patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more
7 acidic ocean, and damaged ecosystems, both marine and
8 terrestrial, across the planet; and
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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 -
30 ten years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental



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

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4 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and
5 expertise available, Hawaii remains particularly vulnerable to
6 the dangers of disaster occurrences as a result of the effects
7 of global warming, thereby endangering the health, safety, and
8 welfare of the people, warranting preemptive and protective
9 action; and

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

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

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

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that entities statewide are
28 requested to pursue these climate mitigation and adaptation
29 efforts and mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:

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

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39 (2) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and
40 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric
41 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the
42 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;



1 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-
2 friendly land use; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide
5 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,
6 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the
7 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,
8 land, food, education, and shelter; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
11 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
12 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary
13 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of
14 declared emergency; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney
18 General; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
19 Director of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and
20 County of Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

