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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HAWAII  
CIRCULAR ECONOMY TASK FORCE THAT SUPPORTS HAWAII'S  
TRANSITION TOWARD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY 2035.

1           WHEREAS, the planet will reach a crucial threshold of  
2 climate change as early as 2030, and rising global temperatures  
3 threaten biodiversity in every ecosystem and cause widespread  
4 effects, including sea level rise; and  
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6           WHEREAS, climate change is an emergency that requires  
7 changes in Hawai'i's energy, agriculture, mobility, water,  
8 construction, industrial sectors, and development infrastructure  
9 to promote the health and well-being of the 'āina and kānaka; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and  
12 Adaptation Commission reports that a climate-ready Hawai'i looks  
13 to Hawai'i's ahupua'a concept, or the Hawaiian tenure system,  
14 because of the effective management of watersheds and  
15 agricultural lands, the protection of environmental and  
16 community health, and connecting communities with kuleana, or  
17 responsibility, to land and ocean environments; and  
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19           WHEREAS, a circular economy models the transition of  
20 economic activities to be regenerative, equitable, resource  
21 efficient, and sustainable, yet still competitive, by closing  
22 loops within economic models; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, a circular economy focuses on the sustainable  
25 management of resources, specifically designing out waste and  
26 pollution, maintaining the value of existing products and  
27 materials, and regenerating natural systems; and



1 WHEREAS, a circular economy changes the way we produce,  
2 assemble, sell, and use products and resources to minimize waste  
3 and reduce our environmental impact, and also values resource  
4 productivity, supports innovative solutions for resource  
5 efficiency, creates new job opportunities, and fosters behavior  
6 change through education and engagement; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the adoption of circular economy principles is  
9 gaining momentum among governments, businesses, and non-profit  
10 organizations in places such as Australia, China, Denmark, and  
11 Germany, and most notably, the European Commission adopted a new  
12 Circular Economy Action Plan in March 2020; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, there has been a massive growth in innovative,  
15 market-based technology solutions and business models that can  
16 support Hawai'i's transition toward a circular economy; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, a transition toward a circular economy will help  
19 address climate change and provide long-term economic, social,  
20 and environmental benefits for Hawai'i; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence in demand for Hawai'i to  
23 reshape its economy to eliminate the overdependence on  
24 extractive industries; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the adoption of a circular economy in Hawai'i would  
27 model traditional Hawaiian values, including the core value of  
28 aloha 'āina; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina represents a deep and abiding love for  
31 Hawai'i's communities and natural environment, while placing 'ike  
32 kūpuna, or native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge, as the  
33 foundation upon which collective action is determined to achieve  
34 pono, or balanced, management of our resources and community  
35 health; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina promotes an abundant economic system  
38 that establishes inherently circular processes and structures  
39 such as lo'i kalo and loko i'a, which continue to be utilized by  
40 Hawaiian communities today; and



1 WHEREAS, a statewide survey found that Hawai'i residents  
2 support growing green economic industries such as food  
3 production, forestry, and natural resource management, and  
4 express community interest in economic transition toward more  
5 sustainable initiatives; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, over two thousand seven hundred individuals,  
8 businesses, and organizations have expressed their support and  
9 commitment for the State to adopt aloha 'āina principles through  
10 the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the principles of a circular economy would also  
13 help advance multiple initiatives, including those created by  
14 the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission,  
15 Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce, Hawai'i Clean Energy  
16 Initiative, Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, and Aloha+  
17 Challenge; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is a leader in climate change and renewable  
20 energy goals and has the potential to model an economy rooted in  
21 centuries of island-based values, such as sustainable practices,  
22 environmental health, and community well-being; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, with the adoption of circular economy goals that  
25 are practiced internationally in partnership with aloha 'āina  
26 principles, Hawai'i is poised to become a global leader in the  
27 transition toward a circular economy grounded in indigenous  
28 values; now, therefore,

29  
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is  
33 requested to convene and participate in the Hawai'i Circular  
34 Economy Task Force that supports Hawaii's transition toward a  
35 circular economy by 2035; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommendations made by the  
38 task force achieve the following objectives:

- 39  
40 (1) Consideration of circular economy values in decision-  
41 making in all economic transition efforts across



- 1 government operations, including service delivery,  
2 infrastructure, purchasing decisions, and regulatory  
3 frameworks;  
4
- 5 (2) Incorporation of circular economy principles in future  
6 policy and regulatory actions;  
7
- 8 (3) Restoration of 'āina and communities in a manner that  
9 elevates local self-sufficiency;  
10
- 11 (4) Supporting efficient processing and reduction of waste  
12 streams across economic sectors to produce  
13 regenerative impacts on Hawai'i's 'āina and resources;  
14 and  
15
- 16 (5) Consideration of utilizing the 'Āina Aloha Economic  
17 Futures Assessment Tool for decision-making and  
18 allocations of resources unless inappropriate; and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
21 include a designee from the following entities:  
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- 23 (1) The Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
24 Tourism;  
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- 26 (2) The Department of Health;  
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- 28 (3) The Office of Planning;  
29
- 30 (4) The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation;  
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- 32 (5) The House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
33 Energy and Environmental Protection;  
34
- 35 (6) The House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
36 Economic Development;  
37
- 38 (7) The Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Economic  
39 Development, and Tourism;  
40
- 41 (8) The City and County of Honolulu;



- 1 (9) County of Hawai'i;
- 2
- 3 (10) County of Maui;
- 4
- 5 (11) County of Kaua'i;
- 6
- 7 (12) Elemental Exceleator;
- 8
- 9 (13) 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures;
- 10
- 11 (14) The University of Hawai'i at Manoa Hawai'inuiākea
- 12 School of Hawaiian Knowledge; and
- 13
- 14 (15) The University of Hawai'i Office of Sustainability; and
- 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite  
 17 individuals from additional organizations or agencies to  
 18 participate in the task force; and  
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
 21 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
 22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
 23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
 24 of 2022; and  
 25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;  
 28 Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Attorney  
 29 General; Director of Finance; Director of Business, Economic  
 30 Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and Consumer  
 31 Affairs; Adjutant General; Chairperson of the Board of  
 32 Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the  
 33 Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director of Health; Director of Human  
 34 Resources Development; Director of Human Services; Director of  
 35 Labor and Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Land  
 36 and Natural Resources; Director of Public Safety; Director of  
 37 Taxation; Director of Transportation; President of the  
 38 University of Hawai'i System; Administrator of the State  
 39 Procurement Office; State Sustainability Coordinator; Mayor of  
 40 the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the County of Maui;  
 41 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Mayor of the County of Kaua'i;



1 Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, who in turn is  
2 requested to provide a copy to each neighborhood board  
3 chairperson in the City and County of Honolulu; Chairperson of  
4 the Maui County Council; Chairperson of the Hawai'i County  
5 Council; Chairperson of the Kaua'i County Council; Executive  
6 Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission Office of the City and  
7 County of Honolulu; and the principal collaborative authors of  
8 the 'Aina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration.

