

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS TREE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, trees have been identified as an important tool to
2 combat global climate change, reduce society's carbon footprint,
3 and help communities become healthier; and
4

5 WHEREAS, trees, commonly described as the lungs of the
6 Earth, contribute to the environment by cleaning the air,
7 removing odors and pollutant gases, filtering particulates, and
8 removing and storing carbon while releasing oxygen back into the
9 air; and
10

11 WHEREAS, trees cool heat-absorbing streets and buildings up
12 to ten degrees Fahrenheit by releasing water vapor into the air
13 through their leaves, which encourages residents to enjoy the
14 outdoors, thereby improving their health, and contributing to
15 more vital communities; and
16

17 WHEREAS, studies show that trees in urban areas also
18 encourage residents to spend more time outdoors under the canopy
19 of trees where they can immerse themselves in a forest-like
20 environment and soak in the atmosphere through their senses to
21 achieve a feeling of rejuvenation; and
22

23 WHEREAS, trees reduce UV-B exposure by almost fifty percent
24 which provides protection to children from exposure to ultra
25 violet rays on school campuses and playgrounds where they spend
26 hours outdoors; and
27

28 WHEREAS, well-documented studies confirm the positive
29 effects of trees on people's health and productivity, some of
30 which include faster recovery times from surgery, lower blood
31 pressure levels, higher performance and productivity for those
32 with views of trees outside of their offices, and higher test
33 scores and graduation rates for students with trees outside
34 their school windows, as trees have been found to aid in
35 concentration by reducing mental fatigue; and
36



S.R. NO. 151

1 WHEREAS, trees in our island state are a crucial part of
2 sustainable living and agricultural economy through the
3 harvesting of agricultural products such as fruit and wood,
4 which helps create green jobs for our residents and greater
5 opportunities for small businesses; and
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7 WHEREAS, in our tourism-based economy, trees and
8 landscaping contribute to the beauty of our urban areas and
9 create a welcoming environment that attracts tourists, thereby
10 increasing the flow of business to those areas; and
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12 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture
13 reported that street trees increase property values and that
14 planting large trees along streets, sidewalks, and parking lots
15 also help absorb heat, energy, and dust; mask concrete walls and
16 unsightly views; muffle sounds from freeways; create an eye-
17 soothing canopy of green; and foster civic pride within
18 neighborhoods; and
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20 WHEREAS, state and community organizations have endeavored
21 to foster knowledge and awareness of trees, and collectively
22 have declared that "trees literally hold our island state
23 together, helping define our island sense of place, that special
24 connection between our diverse cultures and the environment, the
25 land and its people"; and
26

27 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Camilo Mora of Mora Lab of the
28 Geography and Environment Department at the University of Hawaii
29 who heads the Carbon Neutrality Project, Arbor Day is but one
30 day to help raise awareness of trees and designating the entire
31 month of April as Tree Awareness Month would raise greater
32 awareness and adequately recognize the multitude of benefits and
33 importance trees have, particularly in an island state that
34 depends heavily upon sustainability and tourism; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the public should be encouraged to learn more
37 about the value of trees and designating April as Tree Awareness
38 Month would be an appropriate way to honor trees while also
39 providing community building and educational and economic
40 opportunities through planned events; now, therefore,
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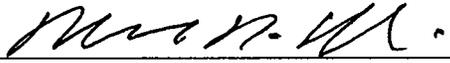


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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
3 that April shall be designated as Tree Awareness Month in the
4 State of Hawaii; and

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of Board
8 of Land and Natural Resources, and mayors of all counties.

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OFFERED BY: 

By Request

