

MAR 04 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING AN ECONOMIC TRANSITION THAT COMBATS CLIMATE CHANGE
AND INCORPORATES CIRCULAR ECONOMY GOALS ROOTED IN ALOHA
AINA PRINCIPLES.

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
5

6 WHEREAS, climate change is an emergency that requires
7 changes in Hawaii'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
10

11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and
12 Adaptation Commission reports that a climate-ready Hawaii looks
13 to Hawaii'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
18

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
28

29 WHEREAS, a circular economy changes the way we produce,
30 assemble, sell, and use products and resources to minimize waste
31 and reduce our environmental impact, and also values resource
32 productivity, supports innovative solutions for resource



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1 efficiency, creates new job opportunities, and fosters behavior
2 change through education and engagement; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the adoption of circular economy principals is
5 gaining momentum among governments, businesses, and non-profit
6 organizations in places such as Australia, China, Denmark, and
7 Germany, and most notably, the European Commission adopted a new
8 Circular Economy Action Plan in March 2020; and

9
10 WHEREAS, there has been a massive growth in innovative,
11 market-based technology solutions, and business models that can
12 support Hawaii's transition toward a circular economy; and

13
14 WHEREAS, a transition toward a circular economy will help
15 address climate change and provide long-term economic, social,
16 and environmental benefits for Hawaii; and

17
18 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence in demand for Hawaii to
19 reshape its economy to eliminate the overdependence on
20 extractive industries; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the adoption of a circular economy in Hawaii would
23 model traditional Hawaiian values, including the core value of
24 aloha 'āina; and

25
26 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina represents a deep and abiding love for
27 Hawai'i's communities and natural environment, while placing 'ike
28 kūpuna, or native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge, as the
29 foundation upon which collective action is determined to achieve
30 pono, or balanced management of our resources and community
31 health; and

32
33 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina promotes an abundant economic system
34 that establishes inherently circular processes and structures
35 such as lo'i kalo and loko i'a, which continue to be utilized by
36 Hawaiian communities today; and

37
38 WHEREAS, a statewide survey found that Hawaii residents
39 support growing green economic industries such as food
40 production, forestry, and natural resource management, and
41 express community interest in economic transition toward more
42 sustainable initiatives; and



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1
2 WHEREAS, over two thousand seven hundred individuals,
3 businesses, and organizations have expressed their support and
4 commitment for the State to adopt aloha 'āina principles through
5 the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration; and
6

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

14 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a leader in climate change and renewable
15 energy goals, and has the potential to model an economy rooted
16 in centuries of island-based values, such as sustainable
17 practices, environmental health, and community well-being; and
18

19 WHEREAS, with the adoption of circular economy goals that
20 are practiced internationally in partnership with aloha 'āina
21 principles, Hawaii is poised to become a global leader in the
22 transition toward a circular economy grounded in indigenous
23 values; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
27 that in pursuance of the circular economy principles, all state
28 agencies are requested to convene and participate in the Hawai'i
29 Circular Economy Task Force that supports Hawaii's transition
30 toward a circular economy by 2035; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommendations made by the
33 task force achieve the following objectives:
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- 35 (1) Consideration of circular economy values in decision-
36 making in all economic transition efforts across
37 government operations, including service delivery,
38 infrastructure, purchasing decisions, and regulatory
39 frameworks;
40



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- 1 (2) Incorporation of circular economy principles in future
2 policy and regulatory actions;
3
- 4 (3) Restoration of ‘āina and communities in a manner that
5 elevates local self-sufficiency;
6
- 7 (4) Supporting efficient processing and reduction of waste
8 streams across economic sectors to produce
9 regenerative impacts on Hawaii's ‘āina and resources;
10 and
11
- 12 (5) Consideration of utilizing the ‘Āina Aloha Economic
13 Futures Assessment Tool for decision making and
14 allocations of resources unless inappropriate; 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 of
24 2022; and
25

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



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

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JBR', is written over a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.