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# 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  
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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  
10

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  
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



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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence in demand for Hawai'i to  
19 reshape its economy to eliminate the overdependence on  
20 extractive industries; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the adoption of a circular economy in Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i residents  
39 support growing green economic industries such as food  
40 production, forestry, and natural resource management, and



1 express community interest in economic transition toward more  
2 sustainable initiatives; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, over two thousand seven hundred individuals,  
5 businesses, and organizations have expressed their support and  
6 commitment for the State to adopt aloha 'āina principles through  
7 the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the principles of a circular economy would also  
10 help advance multiple initiatives, including those created by  
11 the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission,  
12 Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce, Hawai'i Clean Energy  
13 Initiative, Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, and Aloha+  
14 Challenge; and  
15

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

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

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
29 that in pursuance of the circular economy principles, all state  
30 agencies are requested to convene and participate in the Hawai'i  
31 Circular Economy Task Force that supports Hawaii's transition  
32 toward a circular economy by 2035; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommendations made by the  
35 task force achieve the following objectives:  
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- 37 (1) Consideration of circular economy values in decision-  
38 making in all economic transition efforts across  
39 government operations, including service delivery,  
40 infrastructure, purchasing decisions, and regulatory  
41 frameworks;



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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite  
18 individuals from additional organizations or agencies to  
19 participate in the task force; and  
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
22 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
23 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
24 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
25 2022; and  
26

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



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

