
HOUSE 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: larger and stronger hurricanes,
5 increased drought and flooding, shifting rain patterns, more and
6 larger wildfires, a hotter and more acidic ocean, and damaged
7 ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial, across the planet; and
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9 WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent
10 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,
11 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above
12 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the
13 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists
16 published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse
17 gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's
18 ecosystems to their breaking point"; and
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20 WHEREAS, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty six
21 countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming
22 that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will
23 now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve
24 our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and
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26 WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas
27 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate
28 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 - ten
29 years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel
30 on Climate Change (IPCC), and two degrees Celsius by 2045; and
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1 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and
2 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences
3 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby
4 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people,
5 warranting preemptive and protective action; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public
8 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of
9 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and
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11 WHEREAS, 1,864 jurisdictions in thirty-three countries have
12 already declared a climate emergency as of January 26, 2021;
13 now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body acknowledges that
18 an existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the
19 natural world, declares a climate emergency, and requests
20 statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and
21 emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and
24 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:
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26 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a
27 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
28 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a
29 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the
30 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and
31 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will
32 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero
33 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth
34 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
35 Celsius;
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37 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private
38 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the
39 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and
40 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling
41 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects
42 and workforce retraining;



1
2 (3) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and
3 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric
4 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the
5 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;
6 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-
7 friendly land use; and

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9 (4) Organization and tracking of a time-phased
10 implementation plan that assigns state government
11 agencies' responsibilities and timetables; establishes
12 task dependencies between departments with a priority
13 to plan and coordinate, at a statewide level, all
14 climate and resilience responses, including emergency
15 mitigation of climate change effects, resilience,
16 adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and
17 research and development programs, all of which begin
18 with a robust climate emergency public education and
19 stakeholder outreach process; and requires all
20 departmental reports that utilize a lifecycle
21 greenhouse gas analysis to include a Climate Impacts
22 section, which will provide meaningful information on
23 how proposed actions will impact greenhouse gas
24 reduction efforts; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide
27 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,
28 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the
29 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,
30 land, food, education, and shelter; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
33 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
34 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary
35 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of
36 declared emergency; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney
3 General; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
4 Director of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and
5 County of Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

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OFFERED BY: *Lina Mente*

MAR - 4-2021

