
SENATE 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, as demonstrated through larger and
5 stronger hurricanes, increased drought and flooding, shifting
6 rain patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more
7 acidic ocean, and damaged ecosystems, both marine and
8 terrestrial, across the planet; and
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10 WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent
11 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,
12 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above
13 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the
14 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists
17 published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse
18 gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's
19 ecosystems to their breaking point"; and
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21 WHEREAS, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty-six
22 countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming
23 that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will
24 now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve
25 our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and
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27 WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas
28 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate
29 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 - ten
30 years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel
31 on Climate Change (IPCC), and two degrees Celsius by 2045; and



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2 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and
3 expertise available, Hawaii remains particularly vulnerable to
4 the dangers of disaster occurrences as a result of the effects
5 of global warming, thereby endangering the health, safety, and
6 welfare of the people, warranting preemptive and protective
7 action; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public
10 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of
11 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and

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13 WHEREAS, as of January 26, 2021, 1,864 jurisdictions in
14 thirty-three countries have already declared a climate
15 emergency; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that this body acknowledges
20 that an existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the
21 natural world, declares a climate emergency, and requests
22 statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and
23 emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that entities statewide are
26 requested to pursue these climate mitigation and adaptation
27 efforts and mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:

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29 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a
30 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
31 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a
32 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the
33 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and
34 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will
35 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero
36 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth
37 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
38 Celsius;

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40 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private
41 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the
42 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and



1 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling
2 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects
3 and workforce retraining;
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5 (3) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and
6 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric
7 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the
8 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;
9 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-
10 friendly land use; and
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12 (4) Organization and tracking of a time-phased
13 implementation plan that assigns state government
14 agencies' responsibilities and timetables;
15 establishment of task dependencies between departments
16 with a priority to plan and coordinate, at a statewide
17 level, all climate and resilience responses, including
18 emergency mitigation of climate change effects,
19 resilience, adaptation, engagement, education,
20 advocacy, and research and development programs, all
21 of which begin with a robust climate emergency public
22 education and stakeholder outreach process; and
23 requirements of all departmental reports that utilize
24 a lifecycle greenhouse gas analysis to include a
25 climate impacts section, which will provide meaningful
26 information on how proposed actions will impact
27 greenhouse gas reduction efforts; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public and private entities are
30 urged to commit to statewide action that is rooted in equity,
31 self-determination, culture, tradition, and the belief that
32 people locally and around the world have the right to clean,
33 healthy, and adequate air, water, land, food, education, and
34 shelter; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
37 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
38 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary
39 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of
40 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.

