

MAR 09 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROMOTING A "GREEN CHRISTMAS" BY ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO
SELECT PLANTABLE NATIVE TREES FOR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS TO
HELP ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces significant and costly impacts from
2 climate change, including more than \$19,000,000,000 in coastal
3 losses from rising seas, increasing summer heatwaves, loss of
4 coral reefs and native species, and threats to public health and
5 safety; and

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7 WHEREAS, warming waters are increasing the strength and
8 number of hurricanes and storms that impact the State,
9 contributing to the rising costs of insurance and disaster
10 response; and

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12 WHEREAS, to protect local families, create new jobs and
13 economic opportunities, and partner with other states and
14 countries to address the climate crisis, the State has committed
15 to having one hundred percent clean electricity and ground
16 transportation and economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2045; and

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18 WHEREAS, one of the easiest and cheapest ways to complement
19 state mitigation efforts and reduce the impacts of climate
20 change is to plant more trees, which helps to reduce and
21 sequester carbon in the atmosphere; and

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23 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Hawaii families celebrate
24 the holidays each year by purchasing a Christmas tree that is
25 typically imported at great cost from the continental United
26 States; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents realize that importing evergreen
29 trees from across the Pacific Ocean increases transportation
30 costs and carbon emissions, and adds to the post-holiday waste
31 stream as trees are disposed of; and

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1 WHEREAS, a cheaper and more sustainable way to celebrate
2 the holidays would be to display indigenous trees in pots, which
3 can be permanently planted in the ground after holiday
4 celebrations have ended; and
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6 WHEREAS, moving away from using imported trees that must be
7 disposed of and, instead, embracing locally-grown native trees,
8 which continue to have ecological value after being permanently
9 planted in the ground, can help to reduce holiday expenses for
10 residents, promote local agriculture, increase support for small
11 farmers, reforest arid lands, provide homes for native species,
12 reduce ambient temperature, sequester carbon, and renew local
13 values of aloha; now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the public is
18 encouraged to select plantable native trees for holiday
19 celebrations to help address the climate crisis; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenhouse Gas
22 Sequestration Task Force is requested to design a scalable pilot
23 program that supports the use of plantable native trees instead
24 of imported evergreen trees; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Climate Change
27 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and subject matter experts
28 at the University of Hawaii having relevant experience are
29 requested to provide support to the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration
30 Task Force in establishing the pilot program, as necessary; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
33 is requested to work with interested nurseries and other
34 stakeholders to promote the local production and marketing of
35 trees indigenous to Hawaii for use during the holidays; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
38 Natural Resources is requested to work with public and private
39 stakeholders to identify and prepare land for reforestation,
40 with respect to trees that become available for planting each
41 January as a result of the pilot program; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
3 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the
4 Board of Land and Natural Resources, President of the University
5 of Hawaii System, Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Climate Change
6 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, and Chairperson of the
7 Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

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OFFERED BY: 

