

MAR 04 2021

SENATE 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
8

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
14

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
25

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
31

32 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and
33 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences



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1 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby
2 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people,
3 warranting preemptive and protective action; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public
6 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of
7 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and
8

9 WHEREAS, 1,864 jurisdictions in thirty-three countries have
10 already declared a climate emergency as of January 26, 2021;
11 now, therefore,
12

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and
22 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:
23

- 24 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a
25 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
26 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a
27 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the
28 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and
29 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will
30 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero
31 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth
32 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
33 Celsius;
34
- 35 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private
36 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the
37 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and
38 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling
39 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects
40 and workforce retraining;
41



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

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

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

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
32 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
33 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary
34 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of
35 declared emergency; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director
4 of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and County of
5 Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

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OFFERED BY: 

