

MAR 09 2021

SENATE 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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33 WHEREAS, a cheaper and more sustainable way to celebrate
34 the holidays would be to display indigenous trees in pots, which



1 can be permanently planted in the ground after holiday
2 celebrations have ended; and
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4 WHEREAS, moving away from using imported trees that must be
5 disposed of and, instead, embracing locally-grown native trees,
6 which continue to have ecological value after being permanently
7 planted in the ground, can help to reduce holiday expenses for
8 residents, promote local agriculture, increase support for small
9 farmers, reforest arid lands, provide homes for native species,
10 reduce ambient temperature, sequester carbon, and renew local
11 values of aloha; 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 the public is encouraged to select plantable native trees
16 for holiday celebrations to help address the climate crisis; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenhouse Gas
19 Sequestration Task Force is requested to design a scalable pilot
20 program that supports the use of plantable native trees instead
21 of imported evergreen trees; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Climate Change
24 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and subject matter experts
25 at the University of Hawaii having relevant experience are
26 requested to provide support to the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration
27 Task Force in establishing the pilot program, as necessary; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
30 is requested to work with interested nurseries and other
31 stakeholders to promote the local production and marketing of
32 trees indigenous to Hawaii for use during the holidays; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
35 Natural Resources is requested to work with public and private
36 stakeholders to identify and prepare land for reforestation,
37 with respect to trees that become available for planting each
38 January as a result of the pilot program; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
42 Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and



S.R. NO. 65

1 Natural Resources, President of the University of Hawaii System,
2 Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and
3 Adaptation Commission, and Chairperson of the Greenhouse Gas
4 Sequestration Task Force.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan', written over a horizontal line.