
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING HAWAI'I'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

1 WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human
2 activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global
3 climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one
4 of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
7 (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in
8 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the middle of this century in
9 order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to
10 1.5 degrees Celsius; and
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12 WHEREAS, the IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report from
13 Working Group II, which was approved by one hundred ninety-five
14 member states, in February 2022, and the summary for policy
15 makers notes that there is high confidence that "the rise in
16 weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible
17 impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their
18 ability to adapt"; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio
21 Guterres responded, "The IPCC is an atlas of human
22 suffering...according to current commitment, global emissions
23 are set to increase almost 14 percent....It will destroy any
24 chance of keeping 1.5 alive...coal and other fossil fuels are
25 choking humanity"; and
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27 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2021
28 adopted landmark legislation, Resolution 48/13, recognizing that



1 a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, changes in Hawaii's climate are already being
5 felt, as evidenced by rising sea levels, coastal inundation,
6 ocean warming as well as coral bleaching, heightened risk of
7 wild fires, and increasing severe storms; and

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9 WHEREAS, the entire community is impacted by the health and
10 safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who
11 also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-
12 income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of
13 color and indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing
14 mental and physical disabilities, and people with health
15 conditions; and

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17 WHEREAS, youth and future generations have the most to lose
18 from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as
19 they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and
20 economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of
21 climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious
22 diseases, and natural disasters; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal,
25 oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and
26 production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHG) that
27 needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Glasgow Climate Pact provided for incremental
30 improvements, only calling for a phase down, not a phase out, of
31 coal; and

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33 WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry
34 are currently planning to produce about one hundred twenty
35 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit
36 warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate
37 disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of the State to
38 reduce GHG emissions; and

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40 WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming
41 over fifty percent of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic recovery
42 funding from senior levels of government in the Group of Twenty,



1 thereby siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities
2 and other industries; and
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4 WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure
5 and expanded reliance on fossil fuels expose communities to
6 untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and
7 global levels; and
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9 WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean
10 energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an
11 economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the community is committed, as part of the climate
15 emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious
16 investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will
17 create jobs and rapidly decarbonize the economy; and
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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii recognizes that it is the urgent
20 responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel
21 producers to lead efforts to end fossil fuel development and to
22 manage the decline of existing production; and
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24 WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a
25 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil
26 fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in
27 line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
28 Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; now,
29 therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that this body affirms the
34 State's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate
35 Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and
36 greenhouse gas reduction targets as called for by the
37 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and pledges to meet
38 its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris
39 Climate Agreement; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and each county are
2 requested to formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-
3 Proliferation Treaty; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government is
6 urged to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-
7 Proliferation Treaty; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations
11 Secretary General and High Commissioner for Human Rights,
12 President and Vice President of the United States, President Pro
13 Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority and Minority
14 Leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader
15 of the United States House of Representatives, members of the
16 Hawaii congressional delegation, Governor, and Mayor of each
17 county.

