
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGY.

1 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii have an important
2 relationship with nature and have called on their local, state,
3 and federal governments to preserve and protect nature within
4 the State of Hawaii and across the United States; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Hawaii is the home of species and habitats that
7 hold great ecological, spiritual, cultural, historic, economic,
8 and scientific value to the people of Hawaii and need to be
9 protected now and for future generations; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Hawaii and the United States face an unprecedented
12 biodiversity crisis, largely driven by irresponsible resource
13 management that is significantly damaging the Earth's ecosystems
14 by altering seventy-five percent of the area of terrestrial
15 environments and sixty-six percent of marine environments;
16 directly exploiting wildlife and plant species; accelerating
17 climate change, directly harming nature, and exacerbating other
18 threats; polluting air, land, and water; and introducing
19 invasive species; and
20

21 WHEREAS, irresponsible resource management threatens
22 approximately one million species with extinction in the coming
23 decades, including over forty percent of amphibians; thirty-
24 three percent of corals, sharks, shark relatives, and marine
25 mammals; over sixty percent of cycads; over thirty percent of
26 conifer trees; and about ten percent of more than five million
27 insect species; and
28

29 WHEREAS, irresponsible resource management is also causing
30 the population sizes of wild species to decline by an average of
31 sixty-eight percent for mammals; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to over five hundred fifty
3 endangered species, or approximately twenty-five percent of the
4 nation's endangered species, yet receives only approximately
5 three percent of the federal funds available to mālama these
6 species; and
7

8 WHEREAS, 71.4 percent of Hawaii's residents strongly agree
9 that it is important to take steps to prevent the extinction of
10 endangered species; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the decline of biodiversity presents a direct
13 threat to the security, health, and well-being of the people of
14 the Hawaii through the loss of benefits including valuable
15 ecosystem activities, such as zoonotic disease buffering,
16 pollination, water filtration, soil replenishment, and provision
17 of game species, medicinal products, and recreational
18 opportunities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians, the relationship with the
21 land and native ecosystems is integral to cultural identity,
22 sovereignty, and sense of well-being, and Native Hawaiian
23 culture and knowledge offer unique perspectives and traditional
24 ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the decline of biodiversity disproportionately
27 affects Native Hawaiian communities due to the genealogical
28 relationships between Kānaka Maoli and 'āina; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the Governor has signed the Hawai'i Commitments at
31 the International Union for Conservation of Nature World
32 Conservation Congress, which honors the interrelated nature of
33 indigenous people and biodiversity; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the Governor has also signed into law legislation
36 that pledges to make the State fully carbon-neutral by 2045; and
37

38 WHEREAS, protecting Hawaii's biodiversity will effectively
39 mitigate carbon emissions by absorbing excess flood water and
40 buffering the State against coastal erosion or extreme weather
41 events; and
42



H.C.R. NO. 132

1 WHEREAS, the United States is not a party to the Convention
2 on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species,
3 and other relevant international agreements; does not issue a
4 national biodiversity outlook, in contrast to most other
5 nations; and does not have a national biodiversity strategy as
6 part of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on
7 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

8
9 WHEREAS, addressing the biodiversity crisis requires
10 coordination at a global, national, regional, and local scale,
11 and there is currently no coordinating policy to maximize the
12 effectiveness of the federal government's conservation efforts
13 and collaboration with the states, local governments, native
14 peoples, private landowners, and other nongovernmental
15 stakeholders; now, therefore,

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the federal government is
20 urged to develop a national biodiversity strategy; and

21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government is urged
23 to:

- 24
25 (1) Ensure the conservation and restoration of the United
26 States' biodiversity through the development of this
27 national biodiversity strategy;
28
29 (2) Secure and restore the ecosystem activities provided
30 by nature for current and future generations;
31
32 (3) Deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development
33 Goals;
34
35 (4) Set ambitious yet necessary goals for protecting
36 biodiversity in the coming decades;
37
38 (5) Promote social equity and justice in the conservation
39 of the nation's biodiversity;
40
41 (6) Coordinate the actions of federal agencies to advance
42 the conservation of biodiversity;



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

- (7) Promote collaboration among the federal, state, local, and tribal governments; nongovernmental stakeholders; civil society; and other nations to advance conservation;
- (8) Honor federal trust obligations to Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and tribal nations;
- (9) Provide global leadership in addressing the biodiversity crisis;
- (10) Improve the resilience of biodiversity and continue to provide benefits to Hawaii's people and economy;
- (11) Take effective action on the local stressors that can be controlled, including sediment and nutrient runoff from land, invasive species, and unsustainable harvesting;
- (12) Raise issues surrounding biodiversity known to the public; and
- (13) Develop the national biodiversity strategy with significant public input and in collaboration and coordination with federal and state agencies, indigenous communities, communities of color, low-income communities, private landowners, and other non-governmental stakeholders to leverage biodiversity restoration efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national biodiversity strategy should include direction on:

- (1) Supporting the national goal of conserving at least thirty percent of United States lands and waters to protect biodiversity by 2030;
- (2) Setting other goals necessary to reduce the threats to biodiversity based on the best available scientific information;



H.C.R. NO. 132

- 1 (3) Taking action to protect threatened, endangered, and
- 2 at-risk species from further imperilment or
- 3 extinction;
- 4
- 5 (4) Reviewing existing laws, plans, programs, and
- 6 strategies that are relevant to addressing threats to
- 7 biodiversity to assess how they can contribute to the
- 8 objectives of this measure; and
- 9
- 10 (5) As necessary, recommend new laws, plans, programs, and
- 11 strategies, and fund existing conservation programs
- 12 and develop new funding sources; and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 16 United States, Speaker of the United States House of
 17 Representatives, Minority Leader of the United House of
 18 Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
 19 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of
 20 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

21
 22
 23

OFFERED BY: 
 MAR 11 2022

