
HOUSE 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

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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

18
19 WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians, the relationship with the
20 land and native ecosystems is integral to cultural identity,
21 sovereignty, and sense of well-being, and Native Hawaiian
22 culture and knowledge offer unique perspectives and traditional
23 ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity; and

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

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

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

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



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, that the federal government is urged to develop a
20 national biodiversity strategy; and

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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;
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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;



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- 2 (7) Promote collaboration among the federal, state, local,
- 3 and tribal governments; nongovernmental stakeholders;
- 4 civil society; and other nations to advance
- 5 conservation;
- 6
- 7 (8) Honor federal trust obligations to Native Americans,
- 8 Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and tribal nations;
- 9
- 10 (9) Provide global leadership in addressing the
- 11 biodiversity crisis;
- 12
- 13 (10) Improve the resilience of biodiversity and continue to
- 14 provide benefits to Hawaii's people and economy;
- 15
- 16 (11) Take effective action on the local stressors that can
- 17 be controlled, including sediment and nutrient runoff
- 18 from land, invasive species, and unsustainable
- 19 harvesting;
- 20
- 21 (12) Raise issues surrounding biodiversity known to the
- 22 public; and
- 23
- 24 (13) Develop the national biodiversity strategy with
- 25 significant public input and in collaboration and
- 26 coordination with federal and state agencies,
- 27 indigenous communities, communities of color, low-
- 28 income communities, private landowners, and other non-
- 29 governmental stakeholders to leverage biodiversity
- 30 restoration efforts; and
- 31

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

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- 35 (1) Supporting the national goal of conserving at least
- 36 thirty percent of United States lands and waters to
- 37 protect biodiversity by 2030;
- 38
- 39 (2) Setting other goals necessary to reduce the threats to
- 40 biodiversity based on the best available scientific
- 41 information;
- 42



- 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
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- 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 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
16 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Minority
17 Leader of the United House of Representatives, Majority Leader
18 of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United
19 States Senate, and each member of Hawaii's Congressional
20 delegation.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2022

