
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ADOPT A PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AND THE ELECTORATE TO RATIFY THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT, GUARANTEEING ALL INDIVIDUALS THE RIGHT
TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

1 WHEREAS, millions of people in the United States lack
2 access to safe water, and almost everyone in the world is
3 exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution; and
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5 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian culture and traditional and
6 customary practices are intrinsically connected to and
7 inseparable from the environment as a source and foundation for
8 cultural continuity; and
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10 WHEREAS, since the construction of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel
11 Facility near Pearl Harbor, the United States Navy has leaked at
12 least one hundred eighty thousand gallons, and potentially as
13 much as 1.94 million gallons, of jet fuel into potable water
14 sources, affecting the safety of water sources for ninety
15 thousand Hawaii residents; and
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17 WHEREAS, in the last century, air temperatures have
18 increased between one-half and one degree Fahrenheit; and
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20 WHEREAS, this increase in temperature has led to rising sea
21 levels, affecting Hawaii's shorelines and coastal communities;
22 ocean warming and acidification, harming Hawaii's delicate coral
23 reefs and marine ecosystems; land ecosystem changes, potentially
24 causing native plant species to fail to thrive in altered
25 habitats; and a decrease in fresh water availability due to a
26 reduction in aquifer recharge and reduction in flow of Hawaii's
27 streams and rivers; and
28



H.C.R. NO. 88

1 WHEREAS, an environmental rights amendment is an amendment
2 to a state constitution's Bill of Rights that guarantees its
3 citizens the inalienable right to a healthy environment, stable
4 climate, clean air, and clean water; and

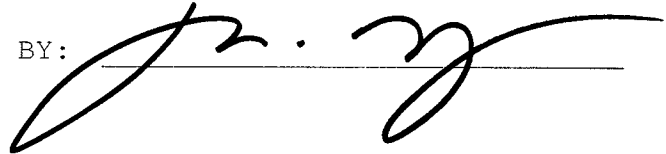
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6 WHEREAS, this body finds that rights to a clean and healthy
7 environment, including clean air and waters, fertile soils,
8 healthy ecosystems, living reefs, and a stable climate; the
9 control of pollution; and the conservation, protection, and
10 enhancement of the natural, native, cultural, scenic, and
11 healthful qualities of the environment, are fundamental and
12 inherent; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Montana, New York, and Pennsylvania have already
15 adopted environmental rights amendments to their constitutions
16 to emphasize environmental health and safety as part of basic
17 civil liberties; now, therefore,

18
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the State of Hawaii
22 is encouraged to adopt a proposed constitutional amendment, and
23 the electorate is encouraged to ratify the proposed amendment,
24 guaranteeing all individuals the right to a clean and healthy
25 environment; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Speaker of
29 the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate.

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32 OFFERED BY: _____



MAR - 7 2024

