
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING FUTURE LEGISLATURES TO PASS A PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AND THE ELECTORATE TO RATIFY THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT, GUARANTEEING ALL INDIVIDUALS THE RIGHT
TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND A STABLE CLIMATE.

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 Storage Facility near Pearl Harbor, the United States Navy has
12 leaked at least one hundred eighty thousand gallons, and
13 potentially as much as 1.94 million gallons, of jet fuel into
14 potable water sources, affecting the safety of water sources for
15 at least ninety-three 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. 48

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

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 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,

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 19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 21 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that future legislatures pass a
 22 proposed constitutional amendment, and the electorate is
 23 encouraged to ratify the proposed amendment, guaranteeing all
 24 individuals the right to a clean and healthy environment and a
 25 stable climate; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

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OFFERED BY: 
 MAR 05 2025

