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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COORDINATION TO IDENTIFY, PLAN  
FOR, AND CREATE CROSS-SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN  
HAWAII'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

1           WHEREAS, humanity's runaway greenhouse gas emissions have  
2 contributed to accelerated climate change, characterized by  
3 rising global temperatures, sea level rise, ecological collapse,  
4 and the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather  
5 events; and

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7           WHEREAS, as stated in House Concurrent Resolution No. 192  
8 (2023), scientific consensus indicates public health will be  
9 impacted because climate change will increase the incidence of  
10 increased heat, vector-borne diseases, crop failure and food  
11 insecurity, water insecurity, waterborne diseases, extreme  
12 weather events, air pollution, and adverse mental health impacts  
13 due to these climate stressors and collective eco-grief, which  
14 refers to the deep sense of loss and overwhelming emotional  
15 response felt when learning about and experiencing the  
16 catastrophic destruction of the environment due to climate  
17 change; and

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19           WHEREAS, climate change adversely impacts the social  
20 determinants of health, which include food security, economic  
21 stability, strong social and community support networks, healthy  
22 environments, and access to quality health care and emergency  
23 services; and

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25           WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawaii remains particularly  
26 vulnerable to the effects of climate change, thereby endangering  
27 the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, warranting  
28 preemptive and protective action; and

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30           WHEREAS, climate change and its associated health impacts  
31 are not limited to the purview of the Department of Health, but



1 transcend traditionally siloed approaches to state  
2 administration and impact all departments, including those that  
3 oversee land, water, agriculture, transportation, and emergency  
4 services; and  
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii established itself as a national leader in  
7 adapting to the climate crisis by becoming the first state in  
8 the United States to declare a climate emergency through Senate  
9 Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021), which recognized that  
10 climate change threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the  
11 people of Hawaii; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021) called  
14 for statewide commitment and mobilization of resources to ensure  
15 a just transition to a decarbonized economy and facilitation of  
16 investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure, but did  
17 not declare a public health emergency nor call for the  
18 mobilization of resources necessary to adapt and to protect  
19 human health in Hawaii from the severe threat of climate change;  
20 and  
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22 WHEREAS, leading scientific and medical authorities,  
23 including the United Nations, World Health Organization, and  
24 American Public Health Association, have identified climate  
25 change as a major public health crisis; now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2025, that this body acknowledges that climate change poses a  
30 dire threat to public health, declares a public health emergency  
31 in the State, and requests entities statewide to actively  
32 examine how the climate considerations within their departments  
33 impact human health and coordinate with other departments to  
34 identify, plan for, and create cross-sector solutions to  
35 strengthen Hawaii's public health response to the climate  
36 crisis; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;  
40 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director  
41 of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Director  
42 of Health; Director of Transportation; Chairperson of the Board



1 of Agriculture; and mayors of the City and County of Honolulu  
2 and counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.

