

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING HAWAII INSURERS AND THE HAWAII PROPERTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION TO REDUCE INSURANCE COSTS ON LOCAL RESIDENTS BY PURSUING SUBROGATION CLAIMS AGAINST POLLUTERS KNOWINGLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WORSENING CLIMATE IMPACTS AFFECTING HAWAII INSURANCE RATES.

1 WHEREAS, warming sea and air temperatures due to heat
2 trapped by increasing carbon emissions are worsening weather
3 events, including hurricanes and droughts, and destabilizing
4 Hawaii's climate; and

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6 WHEREAS, overwhelming evidence demonstrates that certain
7 responsible polluters in the fossil fuel industry have been
8 aware of their contribution to climate change for decades, and
9 have knowingly engaged in misleading and deceptive practices
10 regarding the connection between their products and climate
11 change, exacerbating climate-related harms; and

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13 WHEREAS, climate-related harms pose a threat to the health,
14 safety, and security of all residents or, and visitors to,
15 Hawaii; and

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17 WHEREAS, injured parties deserve to be made whole; and

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19 WHEREAS, increasing climate-related disasters and risk have
20 contributed significantly to the destabilization of the State's
21 insurance industry, particularly in the property and casualty
22 insurance sector, and has led to rising premiums and increasing
23 non-renewal rates due to payouts for climate-related damages,
24 including the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires; and

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26 WHEREAS, insurers and injured parties have previously
27 pursued claims against responsible parties related to the opioid
28 epidemic, big tobacco, and other major parties responsible for
29 widespread damages affecting insurance premiums to ensure that



1 the burden of financial loss does not fall solely on
2 policyholders and taxpayers; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a compelling state interest in
5 protecting its citizens from climate disasters, extreme weather
6 events attributable to climate change, and harms resulting from
7 long-term changes to the climate system, with protection
8 including affordable access to a functioning insurance market in
9 the State; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State maintains a compelling interest in
12 protecting consumers from misleading and deceptive practices;
13 now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that this body encourages
18 Hawaii insurers and the Hawaii Property Insurance Association to
19 reduce insurance costs on local residents by pursuing
20 subrogation claims against polluters knowingly responsible for
21 worsening climate impacts affecting Hawaii insurance rates; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney
25 General; Insurance Commissioner; Director of the Department of
26 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the
27 Public Utilities Commission; President of the National
28 Association of Insurance Commissioners; and Plan Administrator
29 of the Hawaii Property Insurance Association.

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32 OFFERED BY: 

