

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE TO WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE
FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND
DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION,
CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY.

1 WHEREAS, due to the current and projected impacts of
2 climate destabilization on Hawaii and the world, immediate
3 action is necessary for human survival and a chance at a just
4 climate future; and

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6 WHEREAS, as the original inhabitants of Hawaii, Native
7 Hawaiians have refined their methods of survival based on
8 science and observation throughout the millennia; and

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10 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians continue to practice, refine, and
11 share their indigenous knowledge for collective survival; and

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13 WHEREAS, indigenous knowledge includes the practices that
14 have sustained native peoples since time immemorial, and is
15 often referred to as ike kupuna, traditional ecological
16 knowledge, indigenous innovations, and, more generally, cultural
17 practices; and

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19 WHEREAS, indigenous knowledge also includes native
20 languages, which serve to connect past, present, and future
21 generations to a shared history, culture, and set of values; and

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23 WHEREAS, indigenous knowledge-based principles are deeply
24 enshrined in the Hawaii State Constitution, as articulated by
25 the right to a clean and healthy environment, protections for
26 the State's natural resources, and the recognition and
27 protection of traditional and customary practices, including
28 Olelo Hawaii; and

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30 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geographical location positions
31 itself to not only cultivate indigenous knowledge, but also to



1 use its location to facilitate and connect shared learnings
2 across Moananuiakea (the Pacific region) and the world; and
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4 WHEREAS, on June 11, 2024, traditional leaders from across
5 Moananuiakea signed the Tuurama Ariki Declaration, which commits
6 to ongoing collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of
7 knowledge among Pacific nations to respond to urgent challenges
8 impacting the Pacific region and the planet; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the cascading and
11 ongoing impacts to Hawaii's aina-based, climate-related, and
12 Native Hawaiian groups, due to rapid and ongoing federal level
13 changes that reverse longstanding and critical environmental,
14 social, and political policies, which are likely to impact
15 residents now and for generations to come; and
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17 WHEREAS, an equitable and just climate future cannot be
18 achieved without purposeful, meaningful, and consensus
19 methodologies that integrate indigenous knowledge into the
20 policy and decision-making processes of the State; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and the
26 State are urged to work towards a just climate future by
27 integrating indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making
28 processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and
29 climate resiliency; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the State are
32 urged to formulate and identify goals to facilitate a just
33 climate future that purposefully and meaningfully includes
34 indigenous knowledge as an integral component; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Olelo Hawaii is urged to be
37 invested in, integrated, and practiced as a key mechanism to
38 achieving a just climate future; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of



1 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and
2 Mayor of each county.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunt W. Reuben", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, circular flourish at the end.