

MAR 07 2025

---

---

# SENATE 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

5  
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

9  
10           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians continue to practice, refine, and  
11 share their indigenous knowledge for collective survival; and

12  
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

18  
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

22  
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

29  
30           WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geographical location positions  
31 itself to not only cultivate indigenous knowledge, but also to  
32 use its location to facilitate and connect shared learnings  
33 across Moananuiakea (the Pacific region) and the world; and  
34



1           WHEREAS, on June 11, 2024, traditional leaders from across  
2 Moananuiakea signed the Tuurama Ariki Declaration, which commits  
3 to ongoing collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of  
4 knowledge among Pacific nations to respond to urgent challenges  
5 impacting the Pacific region and the planet; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the cascading and  
8 ongoing impacts to Hawaii's aina-based, climate-related, and  
9 Native Hawaiian groups, due to rapid and ongoing federal level  
10 changes that reverse longstanding and critical environmental,  
11 social, and political policies, which are likely to impact  
12 residents now and for generations to come; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, an equitable and just climate future cannot be  
15 achieved without purposeful, meaningful, and consensus  
16 methodologies that integrate indigenous knowledge into the  
17 policy and decision-making processes of the State; now,  
18 therefore,  
19

20           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
22 that the Governor and the State are urged to work towards a just  
23 climate future by integrating indigenous knowledge into policy  
24 and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation,  
25 climate mitigation, and climate resiliency; and  
26

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the State are  
28 urged to formulate and identify goals to facilitate a just  
29 climate future that purposefully and meaningfully includes  
30 indigenous knowledge as an integral component; and  
31

32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Olelo Hawaii is urged to be  
33 invested in, integrated, and practiced as a key mechanism to  
34 achieving a just climate future; and  
35  
36



# S.R. NO. 76

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of  
3 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Mayor of each  
4 county.

5  
6  
7

OFFERED BY:

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