
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, 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 practices that have
14 sustained native peoples since time immemorial, and is often
15 referred to as ike kupuna, traditional ecological knowledge,
16 indigenous innovations, and, more generally, cultural practices;
17 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,
25 that the Governor, Mayor of each county, and the State are urged
26 to work towards a just climate future by integrating indigenous
27 knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to
28 climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency;
29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Mayor of each
32 county, and the State are urged to formulate and identify goals
33 to facilitate a just climate future that purposefully and
34 meaningfully includes indigenous knowledge as an integral
35 component; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Olelo Hawaii is urged to be
38 invested in, integrated, and practiced as a key mechanism to
39 achieving a just climate future; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of



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

