

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TO  
ACHIEVE THE STATE'S DECARBONIZATION GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, human activity, particularly the burning of fossil  
2 fuels and the concomitant release of carbon dioxide, has  
3 catalyzed the effects of climate change; and  
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5 WHEREAS, thirty-four percent of the State's coastlines are  
6 vulnerable to intensifying coastal hazards resulting from  
7 accelerated sea level rise; and  
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9 WHEREAS, according to a report produced by the Hawaii  
10 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea  
11 levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent  
12 projections showing this sea level rise occurring as early as  
13 2060; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the report also found that over the next thirty to  
16 seventy years, approximately six thousand five hundred  
17 structures, thirty-eight miles of coastal roads, five hundred  
18 fifty cultural sites, and at least nineteen thousand eight  
19 hundred residents statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding,  
20 resulting in an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss; and  
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22 WHEREAS, in response to the growing threat of climate  
23 change, the State established standards and implemented  
24 initiatives to expand reliance on sustainable and efficient  
25 energy, including a statewide benchmark of generating one  
26 hundred percent of the State's electricity through renewable  
27 sources by 2045; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the State also established a goal to limit  
30 greenhouse gas emissions by reducing emissions to at least fifty  
31 percent below 2005 levels by 2030; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers'  
34 Communiqué issued on April 16, 2023, affirmed the importance of  
35 nature-based solutions, including marine ecosystem restoration,



1 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, mitigate the impacts of  
2 climate change, and preserve and enhance carbon sinks; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, climate researchers have asserted that  
5 establishing transparent methods for accounting direct and  
6 indirect greenhouse gas emissions is crucial to ensuring  
7 consistency, accuracy, and comparability of greenhouse gas  
8 emissions data across the public and private sectors; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, increasing attention to the potential of carbon  
11 sequestration through marine ecosystem restoration and enhancing  
12 carbon accounting methodologies for direct and indirect  
13 greenhouse gas emissions would help the State meet its clean  
14 energy and climate change mitigation goals; now, therefore,

15  
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
18 that this body affirms the importance of marine ecosystem  
19 restoration to achieve the State's decarbonization goals; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body further affirms its  
22 commitment to supporting renewable energy and conservation  
23 projects that align carbon sequestration with marine ecosystem  
24 restoration; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body affirms its  
27 commitment to strengthening carbon accounting methodologies to  
28 assist in the quantification and reduction of direct and  
29 indirect greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions reduction  
30 achieved through marine ecosystem restoration; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
34 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chief Energy Officer of the  
35 Hawaii State Energy Office, President of the Senate, and Speaker  
36 of the House of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY: 

