
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE
AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COORDINATION TO IDENTIFY, PLAN
FOR, AND CREATE CROSS-SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN
HAWAII'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, humanity's runaway greenhouse gas emissions have
2 contributed to accelerated climate change, characterized by
3 rising global temperatures, sea level rise, ecological collapse,
4 and the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather
5 events; and
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7 WHEREAS, as stated in House Resolution No. 192 (2023),
8 scientific consensus indicates public health will be impacted
9 because climate change will increase the incidence of increased
10 heat, vector-borne diseases, crop failure and food insecurity,
11 water insecurity, waterborne diseases, extreme weather events,
12 air pollution, and adverse mental health impacts due to these
13 climate stressors and collective eco-grief, which refers to the
14 deep sense of loss and overwhelming emotional response felt when
15 learning about and experiencing the catastrophic destruction of
16 the environment due to climate change; and
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18 WHEREAS, climate change adversely impacts the social
19 determinants of health, which include food security, economic
20 stability, strong social and community support networks, healthy
21 environments, and access to quality health care and emergency
22 services; and
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24 WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawaii remains particularly
25 vulnerable to the effects of climate change, thereby endangering
26 the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, warranting
27 preemptive and protective action; and
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29 WHEREAS, climate change and health impacts are not limited
30 to the responses of Department of Health, but transcend
31 traditionally siloed approaches to state administration and
32 impact all departments including those that oversee land, water,
33 agriculture, transportation, and emergency services; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii established itself as a national leader in
2 adapting to the climate crisis by becoming the first state in
3 the United States to declare a climate emergency through Senate
4 Resolution No. 44 (2021), which recognized that climate change
5 threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the people of
6 Hawaii; and
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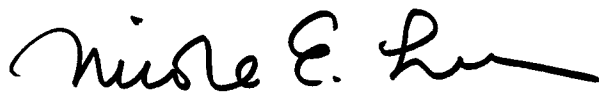
8 WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 44 (2021) called for
9 statewide commitment and mobilization of resources to a just
10 transition to a decarbonized economy and facilitation of
11 investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure, but did
12 not declare a public health emergency nor call for the
13 mobilization of resources necessary to adapt and protect human
14 health in Hawaii from the severe threat of climate change; and
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16 WHEREAS, leading scientific and medical authorities,
17 including the United Nations, World Health Organization, and
18 American Public Health Association, have identified climate
19 change as a major public health crisis; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
23 of 2025, that this body acknowledges that climate change poses a
24 dire threat to public health, declares a public health emergency
25 in the State, and requests entities statewide to actively
26 examine how the climate considerations within their departments
27 impact human health and coordinate with other departments to
28 identify, plan for, and create cross-sector solutions to
29 strengthen Hawaii's public health response to the climate
30 crisis; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;
34 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director
35 of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Director
36 of Health; Director of Transportation; Chairperson of the Board
37 of Agriculture; and mayors of the City and County of Honolulu
38 and counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:



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