

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE CONCURRENT 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

6  
7 WHEREAS, as stated in House Concurrent Resolution No. 192  
8 (2023), scientific consensus indicates public health will be  
9 impacted because climate change will increase the incidence of  
10 increased heat, vector-borne diseases, crop failure and food  
11 insecurity, water insecurity, waterborne diseases, extreme  
12 weather events, air pollution, and adverse mental health impacts  
13 due to these climate stressors and collective eco-grief, which  
14 refers to the deep sense of loss and overwhelming emotional  
15 response felt when learning about and experiencing the  
16 catastrophic destruction of the environment due to climate  
17 change; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, climate change adversely impacts the social  
20 determinants of health, which include food security, economic  
21 stability, strong social and community support networks, healthy  
22 environments, and access to quality health care and emergency  
23 services; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawaii remains particularly  
26 vulnerable to the effects of climate change, thereby endangering  
27 the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, warranting  
28 preemptive and protective action; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, climate change and health impacts are not limited  
31 to the responses of Department of Health, but transcend



1 traditionally siloed approaches to state administration and  
2 impact all departments including those that oversee land, water,  
3 agriculture, transportation, and emergency services; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii established itself as a national leader in  
6 adapting to the climate crisis by becoming the first state in  
7 the United States to declare a climate emergency through Senate  
8 Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021), which recognized that  
9 climate change threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the  
10 people of Hawaii; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021) called  
13 for statewide commitment and mobilization of resources to a just  
14 transition to a decarbonized economy and facilitation of  
15 investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure, but did  
16 not declare a public health emergency nor call for the  
17 mobilization of resources necessary to adapt and protect human  
18 health in Hawaii from the severe threat of climate change; and  
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20 WHEREAS, leading scientific and medical authorities,  
21 including the United Nations, World Health Organization, and  
22 American Public Health Association, have identified climate  
23 change as a major public health crisis; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that this body acknowledges  
28 that climate change poses a dire threat to public health,  
29 declares a public health emergency in the State, and requests  
30 entities statewide to actively examine how the climate  
31 considerations within their departments impact human health and  
32 coordinate with other departments to identify, plan for, and  
33 create cross-sector solutions to strengthen Hawaii's public  
34 health response to the climate crisis; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney  
38 General; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;  
39 Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development;  
40 Director of Health; Director of Transportation; Chairperson of



1 the Board of Agriculture; and mayors of the City and County of  
2 Honolulu and counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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