

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE 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  
32 traditionally siloed approaches to state administration and  
33 impact all departments including those that oversee land, water,  
34 agriculture, transportation, and emergency services; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii established itself as a national leader in  
3 adapting to the climate crisis by becoming the first state in  
4 the United States to declare a climate emergency through Senate  
5 Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021), which recognized that  
6 climate change threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the  
7 people of Hawaii; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 (2021) called  
10 for statewide commitment and mobilization of resources to a just  
11 transition to a decarbonized economy and facilitation of  
12 investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure, but did  
13 not declare a public health emergency nor call for the  
14 mobilization of resources necessary to adapt and protect human  
15 health in Hawaii from the severe threat of climate change; and  
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17 WHEREAS, leading scientific and medical authorities,  
18 including the United Nations, World Health Organization, and  
19 American Public Health Association, have identified climate  
20 change as a major public health crisis; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
24 that this body acknowledges that climate change poses a dire  
25 threat to public health, declares a public health emergency in  
26 the State, and requests entities statewide to actively examine  
27 how the climate considerations within their departments impact  
28 human health and coordinate with other departments to identify,  
29 plan for, and create cross-sector solutions to strengthen  
30 Hawaii's public health response to the climate 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: 

