
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE INSURANCE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY FEASIBLE OPTIONS AND MECHANISMS TO PROTECT THE STATE AND ITS RESIDENTS AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF INSURANCE.

1 WHEREAS, climate disasters have caused widespread harm to
2 the State and its residents, including the destruction of homes
3 and property, loss of wages, escalating insurance costs and
4 losses, depletion of public resources, and injuries to the
5 health, safety, and livelihoods of residents of the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, climate disasters threaten the functionality of
8 the regular insurance market and the residual market, or
9 "insurers of last resort", like the Hawaii Property Insurance
10 Association, as well as taxpayer resources in the state-funded
11 Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund; and
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13 WHEREAS, property and casualty insurance providers have
14 been destabilized by increasingly severe climate disasters,
15 which has led to increased nonrenewal rates and premiums across
16 the State; and
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18 WHEREAS, access to affordable insurance is necessary for
19 the stability and financial health of residents of the State,
20 but is threatened by increasing nonrenewal rates and rapidly
21 rising premiums; and
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23 WHEREAS, there is a compelling state interest in preserving
24 insurance market stability, essential coverage for property
25 owners and lenders, and affordable housing for the State's
26 residents; and
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28 WHEREAS, the climate disasters underlying the insurance
29 crisis in the State are the result of a coordinated campaign of
30 deception launched and orchestrated by major fossil fuel
31 companies. These companies have known for decades that their
32 products cause global warming and increase the frequency and



1 severity of climate disasters. Despite this knowledge, these
2 companies concealed and misrepresented the associated risks,
3 sowed confusion, and failed to warn the public of the dangers
4 created and exacerbated by their products; and

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6 WHEREAS, the consequence of this deceptive conduct by
7 responsible parties is making insurance coverage harder to
8 obtain and less affordable in the State; and

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10 WHEREAS, the costs of these climate disasters should be
11 borne by those responsible for causing them, rather than
12 taxpayers, insurance policyholders, and residents harmed by the
13 climate disasters; and

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15 WHEREAS, insurers and injured parties have previously
16 pursued claims against responsible parties related to the opioid
17 epidemic, big tobacco, and other major parties responsible for
18 widespread damages affecting insurance premiums to ensure that
19 the burden of financial loss does not fall solely on
20 policyholders and taxpayers; and

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22 WHEREAS, many cities, counties, and states in the United
23 States have filed lawsuits accusing companies in the fossil fuel
24 industry of deceptive marketing, misleading shareholders, and
25 culpability for climate damages; and

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27 WHEREAS, this body finds that it is critical to address
28 climate-related impacts to the State due to the State's
29 vulnerability to extreme weather events and climate change; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2026, that the Insurance Division of the Department of
35 Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Department of the Attorney
36 General are urged to convene a working group to identify
37 feasible options and mechanisms to protect the State and its
38 residents against the effects of climate change on the
39 availability and affordability of insurance; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
42 to:



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- (1) Assess the State's and residents' insurance exposure to extreme weather events and natural disasters that may be impacted by climate change;
- (2) Identify existing mechanisms available to the State and residents for recovery; and
- (3) Identify and analyze the legal means available to the State, including the Attorney General, to seek recovery from responsible parties, including large oil and gas companies, to address insurance exposures identified by the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's membership is requested to consist of the following members or their designees:

- (1) The Insurance Commissioner;
- (2) The Attorney General;
- (3) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection;
- (4) The Chair of the House Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce;
- (5) Interested Senators and Representatives who may be invited by the Chair of the working group;
- (6) The Administrator of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund;
- (7) The Administrator of the Hawaii Property Insurance Association;
- (8) The Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and
- (9) Experts with relevant knowledge who may be invited by the Chair of the working group; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
2 group are requested to elect a chair and vice chair of the
3 working group from amongst themselves; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group, with the
6 administrative assistance of the Insurance Division of the
7 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Department of
8 the Attorney General, is requested to submit a report of its
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
14 on June 30, 2027; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Insurance Commissioner,
18 Attorney General, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on
19 Commerce and Consumer Protection, Chair of the House Standing
20 Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, Director of the
21 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Administrator of
22 the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund, and Administrator of the
23 Hawaii Property Insurance Association.
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OFFERED BY:



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