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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL ON CLIMATE CHANGE AS A SIGNIFICANT MEANS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND STABILIZE THE GLOBAL ATMOSPHERE, AND AS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP TOWARD MAINTAINING THE HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HAWAII RESIDENTS, AND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO PURSUE RATIFICATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

1           WHEREAS, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on  
2 Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that the global climate is  
3 warming and projects an increase in global mean surface  
4 temperatures of two to six degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the  
5 21st century, leading to an increase in sea level of six to  
6 thirty-seven inches; and

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8           WHEREAS, four of the five warmest years on record occurred  
9 in the early 2000s, and a 20 percent increase in extreme  
10 precipitation, such as floods and storms, has been seen in the  
11 last 100 years, exemplifying situations that are expected to  
12 become more frequent as the average worldwide climate warms; and

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14           WHEREAS, the expected loss of wetlands areas due to sea  
15 level rise, the loss of forests due to the stress of increasing  
16 temperatures, the loss of wildlife populating these forests and  
17 wetlands areas, and loss of crop yields will have a negative  
18 impact on our quality of life and the lives of future  
19 generations; and

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21           WHEREAS, climate change is already threatening the planet  
22 with the spread of infectious diseases, which will move further  
23 northward and to higher elevations, and the World Health  
24 Organization projects tens of millions more cases of malaria and  
25 other infectious diseases as a result; and



1           WHEREAS, specifically in Hawaii, the sea level has risen 6-  
2 14 inches per century, and is expected to rise another 17-25  
3 inches by 2100, resulting in flooding of low-lying property,  
4 erosion of beautiful beaches, saltwater contamination of our  
5 drinking water, and decreased longevity of low-lying roads,  
6 causeways, and bridges; and

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8           WHEREAS, practices leading to excess emission of climate-  
9 changing chemicals are both local and global in nature, and the  
10 State of Hawaii recognizes that its long-term well-being cannot  
11 be secured without action at both levels; and

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13           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has begun to address its local  
14 contribution to global climate change by:

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16           (1) Recycling, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from  
17           municipal waste;  
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19           (2) Prohibiting the sale of the ozone-destroying chemical,  
20 chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants, or the  
21 intentional release of CFCs into the air from  
22 refrigerators, subject to some exceptions;  
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24           (3) The enactment of a policy requiring the State to  
25 reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse gas emissions  
26 from energy supply and use; and  
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28           (4) Requiring the enactment of State policies to support  
29 actions that reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse  
30 gases in utility, transportation, and industrial  
31 sector applications, and greenhouse gas emissions  
32 through agriculture and forestry initiatives;

33  
34 and

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36           WHEREAS, the best efforts of the State to reduce its  
37 contribution to the climate change problem will make little  
38 difference unless efforts are also made at the national and  
39 international levels; and



1           WHEREAS, in December 1997, at the United Nations Framework  
2 Convention on Climate Change conference of the parties, the  
3 Kyoto Protocol was established based on principles described in  
4 the 1992 framework agreement; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol sets targets to reduce the  
7 greenhouse gas emissions of industrialized countries,  
8 specifically, a seven percent reduction in carbon dioxide and  
9 other greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 emissions levels to be  
10 achieved by the United States between 2008 and 2012; and

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12           WHEREAS, in November 1998, then-President Bill Clinton  
13 signed the Kyoto Protocol amidst criticism from members of  
14 Congress due to the lack of requirements for emissions  
15 limitations by developing countries, and the potential economic  
16 damage to the United States economy required by compliance; and

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18           WHEREAS, in 2001, ratification of the Kyoto Protocol was  
19 dismissed by President George W. Bush, in light of the expected  
20 economic cost of compliance to the United States; and

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22           WHEREAS, by February 2005, the Kyoto Protocol had been  
23 ratified by 141 countries, including Canada, China, the European  
24 Union, India, Japan, and Russia, satisfying the required 55  
25 percent of world greenhouse gas emissions for the Kyoto Protocol  
26 to take effect; and

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28           WHEREAS, the United States is the only member of the Group  
29 of 8, the eight most advanced countries measured by economic  
30 output, currently the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany,  
31 Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States, that has not  
32 ratified the Kyoto Protocol; and

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34           WHEREAS, because the United States has critical economic  
35 and other interests in international climate policy, such as  
36 avoiding long-term drought, famine, mass migration, and abrupt  
37 climate shifts leading to international tensions and instability  
38 in affected regions, it is in the best interests of the United  
39 States to play an active role in any international discussion on  
40 climate policy; and

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42           WHEREAS, the United States, as the largest economy in the  
43 world, is also the largest greenhouse gas emitter, and the  
44 future emissions are projected to continue to rise; and



1           WHEREAS, in the United States, multiple mechanisms,  
2 including market cap and trade programs exist to carry out  
3 mitigation of climate change, sequestration activities in  
4 agricultural sectors, and development of new technologies such  
5 as clean coal and hydrogen vehicles; and

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7           WHEREAS, the development and sale of climate-friendly  
8 technologies in the United States and internationally present  
9 economic opportunities for workers and businesses in the United  
10 States; and

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12           WHEREAS, the United States remains a party to the United  
13 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed in 1992  
14 and entered into force in 1994, which sets a long-term objective  
15 of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere  
16 at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic  
17 interference with the climate system; now, therefore,

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19           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
21 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature support the  
22 provisions of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change as a  
23 significant means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and  
24 stabilize the global atmosphere, and as a necessary first step  
25 toward maintaining the health and quality of life for future  
26 generations of Hawaii residents; and

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to adopt  
29 the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and guide state agencies  
30 toward initiating efforts that will reduce greenhouse gas  
31 emissions to seven percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2012;  
32 and

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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to  
35 request the President of the United States to pursue and  
36 demonstrate United States' international leadership and  
37 responsibility regarding the negative risks posed by climate  
38 change by the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the United  
39 States Senate; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
3 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

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