
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR OF EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF THE
KYOTO PROTOCOL, SIGN THE U.S. MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION
AGREEMENT, AND GUIDE THE COUNTY COUNCIL TOWARDS REDUCTION
OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

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;

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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; and

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19 WHEREAS, on the day the Kyoto Protocol went into effect in
20 the 141 nations that ratified it, an initiative was launched to
21 have 141 mayors around the nation sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate
22 Protection Agreement, which would commit participating cities
23 to:

- 24
25 (1) Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of
26 seven percent below 1990 emissions level by 2012 in
27 their own communities, through actions ranging from
28 anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest
29 restoration projects to public information campaigns;
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31 (2) Urge their state governments and the federal
32 government to enact policies and programs to meet or
33 beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target; and
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35 (3) Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan
36 greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would
37 establish a national emission trading system;

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39 and



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WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2006, 212 mayors nationwide have signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, including Mayor Mufi Hanneman of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Harry Kim of the County of Hawaii, and Alan M. Arakawa of the County of Maui; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the mayor of each county is urged to:

- (1) Adopt the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (2) Sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, if they have not yet done so; and
- (3) Guide the respective county councils toward initiating efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to seven percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2012;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of each county.

OFFERED BY:

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