
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING ENDORSEMENT OF THE EARTH CHARTER AND ADOPTION OF ITS
CENTRAL PRINCIPLES AS PART OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the World Commission on Environment and
2 Development (a/k/a "the Brundtland Commission") first called for
3 "a universal declaration" and "new charter" to set "new norms"
4 to guide the transition to sustainable development in the mid-
5 1980s; and

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7 WHEREAS, discussions led to a draft Earth Charter which was
8 discussed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; and

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10 WHEREAS, an independent Earth Charter Commission was formed
11 in 1997 to pull together several ongoing international
12 discussions and reach a global consensus on the Earth Charter;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, the Earth Charter is an authoritative synthesis of
16 values, principles, and aspirations that are widely shared by
17 growing numbers of people, in all regions of the world; and

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19 WHEREAS, the four central principles of the Earth Charter
20 are: Respect and Care for the Community of Life; Ecological
21 Integrity; Social and Economic Justice; Democracy, Nonviolence
22 and Peace; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Earth Charter is now being used as a basis for
25 peace negotiations, as a reference document in the development
26 of global standards and codes of ethics, as resource for
27 governance and legislative processes, as a community development
28 tool, as an educational framework for sustainable development,
29 and in many other contexts; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Earth Charter is increasingly recognized as a
32 global consensus statement on the meaning of sustainability, the
33 challenge and vision of sustainable development, and the



1 principles by which sustainable development is to be achieved;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, the Earth Charter's principles of respect,
5 conservation, sustainability, sharing, equality, democracy,
6 tolerance, justice, and peace are consistent with the
7 recommendations of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, individuals, organizations, and governments
11 worldwide are being urged to endorse the Earth Charter; and
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13 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii seeks to be a leader in
14 incorporating principles of sustainability into planning
15 processes at all levels of government; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2007, that the State of Hawaii endorses the Earth
20 Charter as part of a framework for sustainable planning and
21 development; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, the mayors and
24 county councils, and the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force
25 are urged to adopt and utilize the Earth Charter as part of a
26 framework for sustainable planning; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor and the
30 Chairperson of the Council of each county, Hawaii's
31 congressional delegation, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task
32 Force, and Earth Charter USA.
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OFFERED BY:

Gyula B. Berg

MAR 09 2007

