

JAN 30 2008

---

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO AGREE TO AN  
ECONOMY-WIDE REDUCTION IN ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND  
TO COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO A BINDING INTERNATIONAL  
TREATY THAT WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT AND RAPID GLOBAL  
REDUCTION IN ATMOSPHERIC GREENHOUSE GAS CONCENTRATION.

1           WHEREAS, the White House is convening a Major Economies  
2 Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change with seventeen  
3 invited countries at the Center for Cultural and Technical  
4 Interchange Between East and West, Inc. (East-West Center) on  
5 the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa on January 30  
6 and 31, 2008, to discuss potential international agreements on  
7 global climate change; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, for more than half a century, researchers have  
10 used atmospheric samples taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on  
11 the island of Hawaii to track a steady annual increase in the  
12 concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and have  
13 concluded that concentrations are now higher than they have been  
14 in the past eight hundred thousand years; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, scientific consensus links the anthropogenic  
17 increase in greenhouse gases to global climate change; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, the Fourth Assessment Report of the  
20 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that global  
21 emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next ten to  
22 fifteen years and be reduced to levels well below half those in  
23 2000 by the middle of this century in order to stabilize  
24 greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest  
25 levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
26 to date in its scenarios; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, achieving the lowest levels assessed by the  
29 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date and its



1 corresponding potential damage limitation would require  
2 developed countries as a group to reduce emissions in a range of  
3 twenty-five to forty per cent below 1990 levels by 2020; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and  
6 the signatory nations of the United Nations Framework Convention  
7 on Climate Change have recognized the special dangers of climate  
8 change to island states, territories, and nations; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, global climate change is causing rapid melting of  
11 ice at both the north and south polar regions, which, in  
12 conjunction with thermal expansion due to warmer water  
13 temperatures, is leading to a rapid rise in sea level; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated  
16 that a one meter rise in sea level would inundate much of  
17 Hawaii's coastline, including the world renowned Waikiki resort  
18 area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the  
19 majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many  
20 historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to  
21 a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu;  
22 and  
23

24 WHEREAS, global climate change also threatens Hawaii with  
25 stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather  
26 patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting micro-climates,  
27 increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion  
28 into its aquifers; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide  
31 concentrations foster greater carbon dioxide uptake by the  
32 world's oceans, leading to ocean acidification and the resultant  
33 decreases in reef health and decreases in survival of ocean life  
34 that rely on calcium carbonate shells; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its  
37 contribution to global climate change by adopting progressive  
38 energy policies that promote the use of clean energy  
39 technologies such as wind, solar, wave, and biomass energy; and  
40



1 WHEREAS, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, placed a  
 2 binding statewide cap on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, by  
 3 requiring Hawaii to reduce its non-aviation greenhouse gas  
 4 emissions to their 1990 levels before 2020; now, therefore,  
 5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
 8 that in recognition of Hawaii's overwhelming vulnerability to  
 9 global climate change, the President of the United States is  
 10 urged to use the January 30 and 31, 2008, Major Economies  
 11 Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change, which is being  
 12 hosted in Hawaii, to commit to an economy-wide reduction in  
 13 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and  
 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United  
 16 States is urged to consent to binding and quantified commitments  
 17 for the United States under the United Nations Framework  
 18 Convention on Climate Change that would result in the rapid  
 19 stabilization and decrease in atmospheric greenhouse gas  
 20 concentrations; and  
 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
 24 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
 25 United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's  
 26 congressional delegation, and the Secretariat of the United  
 27 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.  
 28  
 29  
 30

J. Kalani Ghosh

OFFERED BY:

Ron Mendon

Nike Gohari Randy de la Cruz

Greg L. Hoan

Erinanne Chun Aulund

Shirley K. Wong  
Richard Imae

Clarence K. Nishikawa Joe DeLeon Carol Fukuoka

Norman Sakamoto

Justin

SR LRB 08-1380.doc



Russell Kabot

John Lee

John

Will Cyro