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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE  
AND WILDERNESS BY OPPOSING OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND ON  
THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF AND SUPPORTING CLEAN, RENEWABLE  
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Arctic  
2 National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) to conserve Alaska's natural  
3 diversity of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats,  
4 to provide for subsistence uses, to ensure water quality and  
5 necessary quantity within the Refuge, and to fulfill  
6 international treaty obligations; and

7           WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Refuge, where oil  
8 drilling is proposed, is home to large concentrations of  
9 wildlife in the Refuge, including 135 species of migratory  
10 birds, polar bears, musk oxen, and the migratory porcupine  
11 caribou herd, which returns to the Refuge coastal plain during  
12 calving and post-calving season; and

13           WHEREAS, oil development proposed in the Refuge coastal  
14 plain is predicted by scientists to reduce the porcupine caribou  
15 herd, a vital resource of this fragile ecosystem already  
16 impacted by climate change; and

17           WHEREAS, the Outer Continental Shelf (Shelf) is a shallow  
18 segment of land just beyond the beaches of the continental  
19 United States that slopes for many miles before dropping steeply  
20 to the seabed and extends to the seaward extent of the state and  
21 federal jurisdictions; and  
22



1           WHEREAS, in these coastal areas, from the icy Alaskan  
2 waters to the coral reefs off the Florida Keys, thousands of  
3 plant and animal species thrive; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in response to damaging drilling practices and oil  
6 spills in the fragile ecosystem of the Shelf, in the early 1980s  
7 the United States Congress established a moratorium on oil and  
8 gas exploration and development on the Shelf; and  
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10           WHEREAS, in ensuing years actions by Congress and executive  
11 administrations have eroded the protections provided by the  
12 moratorium by allowing limited leasing of Shelf areas for oil  
13 and gas exploration and development and authorizing an inventory  
14 of all Shelf areas for potential fossil fuel exploration and  
15 development; and

16           WHEREAS, according to a National Academy of Sciences study  
17 commissioned by Congress, oil and gas development in Northern  
18 Alaska has already affected the land, wildlife, and subsistence  
19 lifestyles for this region, and new Shelf oil and gas leasing  
20 and development in bowhead whale migration areas pose even  
21 graver risks due to the difficulties in cleaning up oil spills  
22 among ice packs; and

23           WHEREAS, oil development in the Refuge and on the Shelf  
24 perpetuates an unsustainable national energy policy contributing  
25 to global warming, which can raise sea levels and increase storm  
26 frequency and intensity; now, therefore,  
27

28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress  
31 is respectfully urged to oppose oil and gas exploration and  
32 development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on the  
33 Outer Continental Shelf and to support clean, renewable energy  
34 alternatives; and  
35

36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
38 United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United



# H.C.R. NO. 56

1 States House of Representatives, the President and Minority  
 2 Leader of the United States Senate, and the members of Hawaii's  
 3 Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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