
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE HAWAIIAN LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative
2 (HLRI) is a non-profit organization located on the Island of
3 Hawaii that is focused and committed to the revitalization,
4 reforestation, and restoration of the native Hawaiian rain
5 forests, by and through its coined Hawaiian Legacy Forest and
6 Legacy Trees; and

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8 WHEREAS, HLRI was created to establish a new way of
9 sustainable reforestation that is found nowhere else on Earth;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, HLRI's mission is to promote and assist in the
13 reforestation of precious Hawaii forest land with the endemic
14 species of trees and plants native to Hawaii, including koa,
15 O'hia, and sandalwood; and

16
17 WHEREAS, HLRI promotes the integral relationship between
18 the native Hawaiian culture, tradition and history with the
19 resource management of the endemic Hawaiian rain forest; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands were once covered with ample
22 koa forests; and

23
24 WHEREAS, however, over the years the Hawaiian koa wood
25 forests have substantially declined and much of the habitat in
26 these forests has been diminished or depleted; and

27
28 WHEREAS, koa wood is rich in value, both historically and
29 culturally; and

30
31 WHEREAS, HLRI also facilitates the planting of native
32 understory trees and shrubs like māmane, naio, 'ōhi'a, kōlea,
33 'ākala and ferns; and



1 WHEREAS, planting a new forest of trees creates an
2 environment that evolves to encompass the return of wildlife
3 once native to such lands, including birds, bees and animals;
4 and
5

6 WHEREAS, as a result, HLRI promotes reforestation efforts
7 and the preservation of managed rain forest ecosystem by
8 planting endemic trees, including koa, o'hia, and sandalwood,
9 while providing a native habitat for Hawaii's rarest birds like
10 the endangered io, pueo, akepa and akiapola'au; and
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12 WHEREAS, by emphasizing forestry and increasing the
13 production of native trees, our entire community benefits from
14 improved air quality since trees generate oxygen as they grow in
15 the biosphere; and
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17 WHEREAS, the innovative and ground-breaking program, Legacy
18 Carbon, has been launched and is producing certified carbon
19 credits for the reforestation of its endemic koa trees; and
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21 WHEREAS, HLRI uses a "proprietary radio-frequency
22 identification (RFID) geo-tagging technology that tracks ongoing
23 growth, maintenance, genealogy, and carbon data of every single
24 tree, so every purchaser of a carbon credit can track the
25 quantifiable impact of their purchase of koa trees planted for
26 permanent reforestation in HLRI's Hawaiian Legacy Forest"; and
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28 WHEREAS, this certified carbon credit program is the only
29 certified carbon credit program of its kind in Hawaii and has
30 been certified by and through the Gold Standard Foundation based
31 in Switzerland, which serves as confirmation that HLRI's program
32 has implemented the best practice rules; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Gold Standard, which is the toughest
35 certification standard in the world, and established by the
36 World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and other non-governmental
37 organizations to maximize positive environmental and social
38 outcomes by ensuring quality, integrity, and strong governance
39 in climate change initiatives; and
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1 WHEREAS, the WWF also works with more than 1,100 projects
2 in over 70 countries and maintains that Gold Standard projects
3 have delivered billions of dollars in global greenhouse gas
4 emission reductions and life-changing sustainable development in
5 local communities; and

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7 WHEREAS, in addition, the reforestation efforts advanced by
8 HLRI facilitate countless other benefits to the environment
9 through watershed protection and the improvement of water
10 quality and quantity on forested lands, stream quality, and
11 coral reef habitat; and

12
13 WHEREAS, further, HLRI's reforestation goals and benefits
14 also encompass the facilitation of soil conservation as forest
15 cover reduces erosion; and

16
17 WHEREAS, trees and foliage have been found to benefit the
18 public health by improving community aesthetics and air quality,
19 encouraging physical activity, and reducing energy use; and

20
21 WHEREAS, this State has designated certain habitats
22 critical for survival for trees endemic to Hawaii, such as
23 'Aiea, and instituted measures designed to protect such areas
24 through fencing, weed and fire control, and planting; and

25
26 WHEREAS, combined efforts with this State and HLRI would be
27 in furtherance of the Hawaii Exceptional Tree Act, Act 105,
28 Session Laws of Hawaii 1975, in which the Legislature
29 established the public policy that rapid urban development had
30 led to the destruction of many of the State's exceptional trees;
31 and

32
33 WHEREAS, because of this, Act 105 was enacted to ensure
34 that the State recognize that trees are valuable for their
35 beauty and that they perform crucial ecological functions; and

36
37 WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2016, the
38 Legislature has acknowledged, recognized, and supported various
39 programs to address carbon offset -- meaning the compensatory
40 measure made by an individual or entity for carbon emissions -
41 including those which facilitated the planting of trees endemic
42 to Hawaii; and

43



1 WHEREAS, HLRI promotes and offers a service of great public
2 benefit that:

- 3
4 (1) Has favorable environmental impact that is culturally
5 and historically particular to this State;
6
7 (2) Reinforces improvement of air quality; and
8
9 (3) Furthers the extremely important goal of increasing
10 the size and quality of native forest in Hawaii;
11

12 now, therefore,

13
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
16 Session 2016, that this body urges the Departments of Land and
17 Natural Resources, Health, and Business, Economic Development
18 and Tourism, to support the efforts of HLRI in restoring,
19 revitalizing, and protecting endemic species in the State of
20 Hawaii; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Land and
23 Natural Resources, Health, and Business, Economic Development
24 and Tourism assist HLRI in actively developing, continuing, and
25 maintaining reforestation efforts, including but not limited to:

- 26
27 (1) Advancing the optimal use and economic benefit of
28 forest products;
29
30 (2) Establishing working programs related to the
31 sustainable planting of trees within this State and ON
32 its land; and
33
34 (3) Participating actively in the continued research of
35 endemic Hawaiian plants and animals as reforestation
36 progresses;
37

38 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Lieutenant
 3 Governor; the members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation; the
 4 Chair and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and to the
 5 Directors of Land and Natural Resources, Health, and Business,
 6 Economic Development and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:

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 Greg Takayama

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