
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND EMPLOYER-UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUEL
INVESTMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a strong and necessary
2 commitment to sustainability; and

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4 WHEREAS, the State has adopted the goal of meeting 40
5 percent of its energy needs through renewable energy sources by
6 2030; and

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8 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System, the Hawaii's
9 largest institution of higher learning and research, has adopted
10 Executive Policy 4.202, which sets a university goal of carbon
11 neutrality by 2050; and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the effects
14 of global warming; and

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16 WHEREAS, continued rising of sea levels caused by global
17 warming threaten to erode State beaches and dramatically alter
18 shorelines; and

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20 WHEREAS, continued increases in ocean temperatures caused
21 by global warming may cause irreversible harm to ocean
22 ecosystems, including the widespread bleaching of coral and
23 increased stress for native plants and animals; and

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25 WHEREAS, higher average temperatures caused by global
26 warming may also increase the incidence of heat-related
27 illnesses such as dengue fever and cholera; and

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29 WHEREAS, global warming has also affected global weather
30 patterns, leading to periods of drought and flooding worldwide,



1 and to disruptions in tradewind and rainfall patterns in the
2 State; and

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4 WHEREAS, fossil fuel usage is often cited by scientists as
5 a primary driver of global warming; and

6
7 WHEREAS, many of the world's leaders have taken steps to
8 curb fossil fuel usage and global warming, such as in December,
9 2015, when an international agreement was reached at the United
10 Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris to limit global
11 warming to below two degrees centigrade; and

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13 WHEREAS, many countries have adopted and will continue to
14 adopt laws that address climate change, evidenced by the over
15 800 laws that address climate change worldwide today, nearly
16 double the amount since 2009; and

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18 WHEREAS, many of these laws, regulations, and restrictions
19 regarding fossil fuel usage will undoubtedly have effects on the
20 value of coal, oil, and gas companies; and

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22 WHEREAS, the value of fossil fuel stocks has already
23 decreased by nearly one-third in the past two years; and

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25 WHEREAS, the New York State Retirement Fund lost at least
26 \$5.3 billion from their investments in top coal, oil, and gas
27 companies; and

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29 WHEREAS, fossil fuel stock prices face further valuation
30 concerns due to restrictions on fossil fuel reserve consumption
31 set by international global warming goals adopted during the
32 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference; and

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34 WHEREAS, financial experts, including the Executive
35 Director for Supervisory Risk and Regulatory Operations of the
36 Bank of England, Paul Fisher; former United States Treasury
37 Secretary, Hank Paulson; former Securities and Exchange
38 Commissioner Bevis Longstreth; and analysts at Citigroup, AXA
39 Investment Managers, Goldman Sachs, Standard and Poor's, and
40 HSBC have warned of a looming carbon financial bubble; and



1 WHEREAS, the declining value of fossil fuel stocks may pose
2 an ongoing problem for investors given the global push toward
3 renewable energy; and
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5 WHEREAS, two of the largest pension funds in the nation,
6 California's CalPERS and CALSTRS, have divested from holdings in
7 coal mining companies in response to legislation adopted by the
8 California State Legislature; and
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10 WHEREAS, it is clear that divestment from holdings in
11 fossil fuels is not only fiscally sound, but also in the best
12 interest of the State's marine and terra environments; now,
13 therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
17 Session of 2016, that the Employees' Retirement System and
18 Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund are urged to divest
19 all holdings in companies and stocks with a majority interest in
20 fossil fuels no later than the year 2021; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Trustees
24 of the Employees' Retirement System and the Chairperson of the
25 Board of Trustees of the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust
26 Fund.
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OFFERED BY:

Matthew...
Alan...
Nicole...
[Signature]
Cindy Evans
[Signature]

