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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL OPINIONS OF FUTURE STATE REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION THAT MIGHT BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PREVENT THE REGRESSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

1           WHEREAS, during the early stages of this administration,  
2 the President of the United States has repeatedly expressed  
3 disdain for government regulations of all types; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the President has demonstrated particular contempt  
6 for environmental regulations, and the President's  
7 administration has illogically criticized the science that  
8 supports environmental protections and regulations and dismissed  
9 findings made by climate science researchers; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the administration recently appointed Scott Pruitt  
12 to head the Environmental Protection Agency; and  
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14           WHEREAS, Pruitt is unqualified, and has made a career of  
15 defending corporate polluters and blocking environmental  
16 protection by litigating against the agency he now leads; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the Trump administration stated it would like to  
19 cut the staff of the Environmental Protection Agency in half,  
20 appoint well-known climate change deniers to lead the  
21 Environmental Protection Agency transition team, and called the  
22 concept of man-made climate change a "hoax"; and  
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24           WHEREAS, for a number of years, scientific research points  
25 to various human activities that contribute toward climate



1 change, such as through an increase in production of greenhouse  
2 gasses; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the drastic increase in the emission of carbon  
5 dioxide within the last 30 years caused by the burning of fossil  
6 fuels has been identified as a major contributor to the rising  
7 temperature in the atmosphere; and  
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9 WHEREAS, a survey held in 2014 among 1,868 scientists  
10 studying various aspects of climate change to determine the  
11 scientist's views on the attribution of global warming to  
12 various man-made and natural causes, found that over 90 percent  
13 of respondents explicitly agreed that man-made greenhouse gases  
14 are a dominant driver of recent global warming; and  
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16 WHEREAS, scientists are now noting the effects of global  
17 warming on the earth's environment, including the loss of sea  
18 ice, accelerated sea level rise, and longer, more intense heat  
19 waves; and  
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21 WHEREAS, global warming can pose potential threats that  
22 place a great amount of risk to human life, health, and welfare,  
23 such as the reduction of crop yields, decline in marine  
24 productivity, and expansion of animal populations that carry  
25 diseases; and  
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27 WHEREAS, with overwhelming scientific evidence revealing  
28 the extent to which human activities have adversely affected  
29 earth's climate, it is of vital importance that the State  
30 recognizes the scientific data on climate change and take steps  
31 to mitigate any shortcomings or regulation roll backs  
32 implemented by our current federal administration; now,  
33 therefore,  
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Office of Environmental  
38 Quality Control, in coordination with the Department of the  
39 Attorney General, is urged to prepare environmental and legal  
40 opinions of future state regulations that might be deemed  
41 necessary to combat climate change and prevent the regression of  
42 environmental protection; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Environmental  
 2 Quality Control, in coordination with the Legislative Reference  
 3 Bureau, is requested to complete a study of the potential  
 4 legislation needed to maintain climate change environmental  
 5 protection; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Environmental  
 8 Quality Control, in coordination with the Department of the  
 9 Attorney General and the Legislative Reference Bureau, submit a  
 10 report of its findings, analyses, and recommendations, including  
 11 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20  
 12 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
 16 Environmental Quality Control, the Attorney General, the  
 17 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and members of  
 18 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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*Nicole E. Loun*  
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*Gyöngyi Hilden*  
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MAR 10 2017

