
HOUSE 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
26 change, such as through an increase in production of greenhouse
27 gasses; and



1 WHEREAS, the drastic increase in the emission of carbon
2 dioxide within the last 30 years caused by the burning of fossil
3 fuels has been identified as a major contributor to the rising
4 temperature in the atmosphere; and

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6 WHEREAS, a survey held in 2014 among 1,868 scientists
7 studying various aspects of climate change to determine the
8 scientist's views on the attribution of global warming to
9 various man-made and natural causes, found that over 90 percent
10 of respondents explicitly agreed that man-made greenhouse gases
11 are a dominant driver of recent global warming; and

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13 WHEREAS, scientists are now noting the effects of global
14 warming on the earth's environment, including the loss of sea
15 ice, accelerated sea level rise, and longer, more intense heat
16 waves; and

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18 WHEREAS, global warming can pose potential threats that
19 place a great amount of risk to human life, health, and welfare,
20 such as the reduction of crop yields, decline in marine
21 productivity, and expansion of animal populations that carry
22 diseases; and

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24 WHEREAS, with overwhelming scientific evidence revealing
25 the extent to which human activities have adversely affected
26 earth's climate, it is of vital importance that the State
27 recognizes the scientific data on climate change and take steps
28 to mitigate any shortcomings or regulation roll backs
29 implemented by our current federal administration; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2017, that the Office of Environmental Quality Control, in
35 coordination with the Department of the Attorney General, is
36 urged to prepare environmental and legal opinions of future
37 state regulations that might be deemed necessary to combat
38 climate change and prevent the regression of environmental
39 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

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 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

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

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OFFERED BY:

[Signature]
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