

MAR 07 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO ABIDE BY THE STANDARDS ADOPTED IN THE PARIS
AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

1 WHEREAS, more than ninety percent of the world's scientists
2 agree that global warming is occurring as a result of human
3 activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels; and
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5 WHEREAS, scientists predict that if left unchecked, global
6 warming will cause a sea level rise of one to six feet or
7 greater by the end of this century; and
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9 WHEREAS, a sea level rise of one to six feet will cause
10 billions of dollars' worth of property damage in the Hawaiian
11 Islands and have profoundly adverse effects on the tourism
12 industry and Hawaii's way of life; and
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14 WHEREAS, scientists also predict that if left unchecked,
15 global warming will cause increases in the size and frequency of
16 hurricanes, thereby endangering the lives and property of the
17 people of Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, the International Paris Agreement (Paris
20 Agreement) entered into force on November 4, 2016, and has the
21 central aim of strengthening the global response to the threat
22 of climate change by holding the increase in the global average
23 temperature this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above
24 pre-industrial levels and at the same time pursuing efforts to
25 even further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees
26 Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the ability
29 of countries to address the impacts of climate change and to
30 reach these ambitious goals through appropriate financial flows,
31 a new technology framework, and an enhanced capacity building
32 framework, thus supporting action by developing countries and



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1 the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national
2 objectives; and
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4 WHEREAS, one hundred ninety-seven countries, including the
5 United States, are currently parties to the Paris Agreement; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement recognizes the role of non-
8 party stakeholders in addressing climate change, including
9 regions, cities, other subnational authorities, civil society,
10 the private sector, and others who are all invited to scale up
11 their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions, build
12 resilience, and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of
13 climate change; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii enacted Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii
16 2015, the most aggressive clean energy bill in the United
17 States, calling for Hawaii to become completely energy self-
18 sustaining by using one hundred percent renewable sources by
19 2045; and
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21 WHEREAS, in addition to reducing Hawaii's carbon emissions
22 and Hawaii's contribution to global warming, Act 97 (2015) will
23 have the practical benefit of making Hawaii's electricity
24 considerably cheaper, saving consumers and businesses an
25 estimated \$4,000,000,000 a year, which is currently sent out of
26 the State to pay for fossil fuels; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Hawaii wishes to be an example to other states of
29 how they, as individual states, can make contributions to reduce
30 global warming; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that this body urges the
35 State to abide by the standards set forth in the Paris Agreement
36 and to reduce Hawaii's carbon emissions by the same or greater
37 percentage as sought by the United States under the Paris
38 Agreement; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the State to
41 abide by all other conditions of the Paris Agreement, insofar as



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1 it is able as a non-party stakeholder, including the requirement
2 to report regularly on emissions and implementation efforts; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretariat of the
6 United Nations; President of the United States; White House
7 Secretary, who is requested to distribute a copy to each
8 national news organization represented in the White House Press
9 Corps; Secretary of the United States Senate and Clerk of the
10 United States House of Representatives, who are requested to
11 distribute a copy to each member of the United States Congress;
12 Governor of each state; and the heads of each state legislature.
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15

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