
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
FUNCTIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.

1 WHEREAS, environmental issues, including mitigating and
2 adapting to climate change, reducing carbon emissions, planning
3 for sea level rise, protecting natural resources, watersheds,
4 and coral reefs, reducing solid waste, and improving wastewater
5 disposal, are some of the most pressing and urgent issues of our
6 times; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the State has enacted various laws to address
9 environmental issues; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the state divisions, agencies, offices, officials,
12 and employees that are most involved with these issues are
13 separated and housed under different departments; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the placement of environmentally-related
16 responsibilities in different departments, divisions, agencies,
17 and offices deprioritizes environmental issues and hinders
18 coordination of the implementation of solutions; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the absence of a single executive branch
21 department that bears all the responsibilities for environmental
22 issues results in an absence of leadership on these urgent
23 issues; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
27 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested to
28 convene a Department of the Environment and Consolidation of
29 State Environmental Functions Working Group; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or
2 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
3 the working group:

- 4
- 5 (1) The Governor;
 - 6
 - 7 (2) The Director of Health;
 - 8
 - 9 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
10 Resources;
 - 11
 - 12 (4) The Director of the Office of Environmental Quality
13 Control;
 - 14
 - 15 (5) The Administrator of the Office of Conservation and
16 Coastal Lands;
 - 17
 - 18 (6) The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
19 Coordinator of the Office of Conservation and Coastal
20 Lands;
 - 21
 - 22 (7) The Administrator of the Hawaii State Energy Office;
 - 23
 - 24 (8) The Director of the Office of Planning;
 - 25
 - 26 (9) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Government
27 Employees Association, Local 152;
 - 28
 - 29 (10) The State Director of the United Public Workers, Local
30 646; and
 - 31
 - 32 (11) A representative of a nonprofit organization dedicated
33 to resolving environmental issues, as designated by
34 the Chair of the working group; and
 - 35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor or the Governor's
37 designee is requested to serve as the Chair of the working group
38 or, in the alternative, designate a Chair from among the other
39 members of the working group; and

40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
42 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
43 Working Group be attached to the Governor's office for
44 administrative purposes; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
3 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
4 Working Group is requested to consider and make recommendations
5 on consolidating the functions of all the existing state
6 departments, divisions, agencies, and offices that are
7 designated to address environmental issues into a single
8 Department of the Environment; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
11 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
12 Working Group is requested to submit to the Legislature a report
13 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
14 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2020; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
18 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
19 Working Group shall cease to exist after June 30, 2020; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
23 of Health; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
24 Resources; Director of the Office of Environmental Quality
25 Control; Administrator of the Office of Conservation and Coastal
26 Lands; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator of
27 the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands; Administrator of
28 the Hawaii State Energy Office; Director of the Office of
29 Planning; Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees
30 Association, Local 152; and State Director of the United Public
31 Workers, Local 646.

