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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENGAGING, ENDORSING, ACCEPTING, AND ADOPTING THE NEW YORK  
DECLARATION ON FORESTS TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS  
AGREEMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;  
SPECIFICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15, LIFE ON LAND.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is recognized as a global partner and local  
2 leader in sustainability, peace, climate change adaptation, and  
3 human rights due to its adoption of global standards of social  
4 justice to improve the well-being of Hawaii's islands and the  
5 world; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations General  
8 Assembly adopted the historic *Transforming Our World: The 2030*  
9 *Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), a  
10 comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and courageous plan of  
11 action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all  
12 people enjoy peace and prosperity; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, the 2030 Agenda includes seventeen Sustainable  
15 Development Goals (SDGs), one hundred sixty-nine Targets, and  
16 two hundred thirty Indicators upon which general agreement has  
17 been reached to measure, monitor, and mobilize; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian islands are home to forests that play  
20 a pivotal role in Hawaii's natural environment, both  
21 historically and for future generations, by providing watershed,  
22 soil, and habitat protection; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's forests cover two million acres,  
25 approximately half of the entire land mass of Hawaii, and Hawaii  
26 has a strong commitment to planting, management, and natural  
27 regeneration of its forests; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii's forests are critically important to local  
30 culture, the people, and perpetuation of pristine environments



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1 and provide aesthetic value, enjoyment, water conservation, and  
2 improved air quality; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)  
5 provides a proactive and participatory human rights based  
6 approach to protect and restore forests that supports the scope  
7 and significance of the United Nations SDGs; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the NYDF was created and launched at the United  
10 Nations Climate Summit at United Nations Headquarters in  
11 September, 2014, receiving endorsements by two hundred entities  
12 including governments, corporations, civil society, and  
13 indigenous peoples; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the NYDF outlines ten global targets related to  
16 protecting and restoring forests, which, if realized, have the  
17 potential to reduce annual carbon emission by 4.5 to 8.8 billion  
18 tons of CO2 - the equivalent of the annual emissions of the  
19 United States; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the ten goals of the NYDF are:

- 22  
23 (1) Stop forest loss;  
24  
25 (2) Eliminate deforestation from agricultural activities;  
26  
27 (3) Reduce non-agricultural deforestation;  
28  
29 (4) Support alternatives to deforestation for subsistence  
30 farming, fuel, and other basic needs;  
31  
32 (5) Restore forests;  
33  
34 (6) Quantify forest conservation and restoration targets  
35 for 2030 as part of the 2030 Agenda SDGs;  
36  
37 (7) Reduce emissions from deforestation and forest  
38 degradation in accordance with global climate  
39 agreements;  
40  
41 (8) Provide financing for forest action;  
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1 (9) Reward countries and jurisdictions that reduce forest  
2 emissions; and  
3

4 (10) Strengthen governance, empower communities, and  
5 recognize the rights of indigenous peoples; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF can accelerate progress with new  
8 partnerships to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and  
9 the United Nations 2030 Agenda; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the ten goals of the NYDF coincide with the  
12 seventeen SDGs and provide an agenda for grassroots and global  
13 action but it is up to individuals, communities, and states to  
14 generate the political will necessary to achieve these goals;  
15 and  
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawaii is already participating in global efforts  
18 to empower and engage everyone, everywhere to protect the planet  
19 and end poverty, regularly attending sessions of the United  
20 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United  
21 Nations Human Rights Council, and the United Nations High Level  
22 Political Forum; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, college, community, and capitol  
25 discussions on the United Nations Framework Convention on  
26 Climate Change Conference of Parties annual results and the  
27 United Nations High Level Political Forum follow-up and review  
28 of the SDGs continue to generate genuine insight into how both  
29 sets of goals are being realized in the Hawaiian Islands and  
30 what next steps are needed to continue Hawaii's forward  
31 momentum; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF in Hawaii will allow for greater  
34 coordination and communication between Hawaii and other NYDF  
35 partners to share promising practices and support further  
36 improvements for Hawaii's forests; and  
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38 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF will link Hawaii's forest  
39 practitioners to a global network with relevant expertise and  
40 capacity to support the implementation of the forest elements of  
41 commitments under the Paris Agreement that; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 3 2019, the Senate concurring, that this body engages, endorses,  
 4 accepts, and adopts the New York Declaration on Forests; and  
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges federal  
 7 leaders and the nation to embrace the goals of the NYDF and the  
 8 2030 Agenda and make sustainable development the centerpiece of  
 9 national social and sustainable policies; and  
 10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 13 United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of  
 14 the United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of  
 15 the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of  
 16 the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States  
 17 Senate, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, United  
 18 Nations Secretary General, United Nations General Assembly  
 19 President, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
 20 NYDF Platform Secretariat, Executive Secretary of the United  
 21 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations  
 22 High Level Political Forum, and mayors of each county.  
 23  
 24  
 25

OFFERED BY: B. Kolpa  
Muske

MAR - 7 2019

