
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENGAGING, ENDORSING, ACCEPTING, AND ADOPTING THE AARHUS
CONVENTION TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT,
THE 2030 AGENDA, AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is recognized as a global partner and local
2 leader in promoting human rights to create a culture of
3 democracy, rule of law, and protection of the planet through its
4 adoption of global and regional standards to guide decision-
5 making processes; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is guided by traditional Hawaiian values
8 and emerging international human rights visions to generate good
9 governance and ensure participation in policymaking and
10 protection of our islands and the planet; and
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12 WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations General
13 Assembly adopted the historic 2030 Development Agenda entitled
14 "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
15 Development", a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and
16 courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet,
17 and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in December 2015, the United Nations Framework
20 Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties agreed to the
21 Paris Agreement, calling for the first time to limit future
22 increases in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees
23 Celsius; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
26 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in
27 Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
28 (Aarhus Convention) is an important instrument for achieving the
29 goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Aarhus Convention consists of numerous
32 articles covering ideas and coordinating implementation
33 including the following:
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- 1 (1) Access to Environmental Information;
- 2
- 3 (2) Collection and Dissemination of Environmental
- 4 Information;
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- 6 (3) Public Participation in Decisions on Specific
- 7 Activities;
- 8
- 9 (4) Public Participation Concerning Plans, Programmes, and
- 10 Policies Relating to the Environment;
- 11
- 12 (5) Public Participation During the Preparation of
- 13 Executive Regulations and/or Generally Applicable
- 14 Legally Binding Normative Instruments; and
- 15
- 16 (6) Access to Justice; and
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18 WHEREAS, to further accountability of and transparency in
19 decision-making and to strengthen public support for decisions
20 on the environment; and

21
22 WHEREAS, to ensure that the public is aware of procedures
23 for participation in environmental decision-making, has free
24 access to the political process, and knows how to exercise that
25 access; and

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27 WHEREAS, to reinforce the importance of respective roles
28 for individual citizens, non-profit associations, and non-
29 governmental organizations in the promotion of environmental
30 protection; and

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32 WHEREAS, to continue educational, community, and
33 governmental efforts to further the understanding of the
34 environment and sustainable development and to encourage
35 widespread public awareness of and participation in decisions
36 affecting sustainable development in Hawai'i; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
40 2019, that this body engages, endorses, accepts, and adopts the
41 Aarhus Convention; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
 2 States is requested to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make
 3 protection of the environment and decision-making on
 4 environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and
 5 practice; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 9 Vice President of the United States, Speaker of the United
 10 States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the
 11 United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United States House
 12 of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House
 13 of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
 14 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, Hawai'i's
 15 congressional delegation, Governor, mayor of each county,
 16 Secretary General of the United Nations, United Nations High
 17 Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chairs of Hawai'i's Climate
 18 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

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