
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE AND EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE 2030 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, AND TO SPECIFICALLY ADOPT THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NUMBERS 13 THROUGH 17.

1 WHEREAS, the State is recognized as a global partner and
2 local leader in promotion of human rights and protection of the
3 earth through its consistent acceptance of global standards that
4 better serve our islands and the world; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is guided by traditional Kanaka Maoli
7 values and emerging international human rights principles to
8 generate positive policy encouraging prevention and precaution
9 regarding the planet; and
10

11 WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations General
12 Assembly adopted the historic "Transforming our world: the 2030
13 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2030 Development Agenda),
14 which is a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and
15 courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet,
16 and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the 2030 Development Agenda includes seventeen
19 sustainable development goals, one hundred sixty-nine targets,
20 and two hundred thirty indicators upon which general agreement
21 has been reached to measure, monitor, and mobilize to achieve
22 these goals and targets; and
23

24 WHEREAS, goals 13 through 17 of the United Nations
25 sustainable development goals are vital to protecting the
26 State's land and people and should be adopted as local policy
27 and governing principles for local government entities and other
28 organizations; and
29

30 WHEREAS, goals 13 through 17 of the United Nations
31 sustainable development goals are the following, respectively:
32



- 1 (1) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its
2 impacts;
- 3
- 4 (2) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and
5 marine resources for sustainable development;
- 6
- 7 (3) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of
8 terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,
9 combat desertification, and halt and reverse land
10 degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- 11
- 12 (4) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for
13 sustainable development, provide access to justice for
14 all and build effective, accountable and inclusive
15 institutions at all levels; and
- 16
- 17 (5) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize
18 the global partnership for sustainable development;
19 and
- 20

21 WHEREAS, in December 2015, parties to the United Nations
22 Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as Conference
23 of the Parties, adopted the Paris Agreement that further limited
24 the allowable temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius to
25 protect our Pacific neighbors; and

26

27 WHEREAS, Hawai'i continues to partner with other states,
28 territories, and nation-states with the "We Are Still In"
29 movement; and

30

31 WHEREAS, the Pacific islands in the Pacific Islands Forum
32 for Oceania have undertaken creative campaigns to partner with
33 the United Nations' specialized agency programs and funding, as
34 well as participating in the United Nations' major forums,
35 including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable
36 Development, which focuses on the United Nations sustainable
37 development goals; and

38

39 WHEREAS, the Global Pact for the Environment (Global Pact)
40 is an initiative led by the hosts of United Nations Framework
41 Convention on Climate Change in Paris to address the fragmented
42 nature and inconsistent implementation of international



1 environmental law by enumerating fundamental climate change
2 principles in one legally binding framework for current and
3 future generations for equity and equality; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Global Pact will serve as a cornerstone in
6 international human rights and environmental law and create a
7 more coherent global environmental governance; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Global Pact addresses the challenges posed by
10 environmental degradation in the context of sustainable
11 development and induces a greater degree of uniformity for
12 environmental laws in all states; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Global Pact consists of over two dozen
15 articles that cover a variety of topics and ideas to consider
16 for implementation, including:
17

- 18 (1) The right to an ecologically sound environment;
- 19
- 20 (2) The duty to take care of the environment;
- 21
- 22 (3) Integration and sustainable development;
- 23
- 24 (4) Intergenerational equity;
- 25
- 26 (5) Prevention;
- 27
- 28 (6) Precaution;
- 29
- 30 (7) Environmental damages;
- 31
- 32 (8) Polluter-pays;
- 33
- 34 (9) Access to information;
- 35
- 36 (10) Public participation;
- 37
- 38 (11) Access to environmental justice;
- 39
- 40 (12) Education and training;
- 41
- 42 (13) Research and innovation;



- 1
- 2 (14) The role of non-state actors and subnational entities;
- 3
- 4 (15) The effectiveness of environmental norms;
- 5
- 6 (16) Resilience;
- 7
- 8 (17) Environmental non-regression;
- 9
- 10 (18) Cooperation;
- 11
- 12 (19) Armed conflicts;
- 13
- 14 (20) The diversity of national situations;
- 15
- 16 (21) Monitoring implementation of the Pact; and
- 17
- 18 (22) Other topics focusing on the Secretariat, signature,
- 19 ratification, acceptance, approval, entry into force,
- 20 denunciation, and depositary; and
- 21

22 WHEREAS, the Global Pact provides an agenda based upon the
 23 articles for grassroots and global action to generate the
 24 political will to protect the planet today and tomorrow; and
 25

26 WHEREAS, the State desires to promote sustainable
 27 development where each generation can satisfy its needs without
 28 compromising the capability of future generations to meet their
 29 needs to respect the balance and integrity of the earth's and
 30 Hawai'i's fragile ecosystem; and
 31

32 WHEREAS, Hawai'i emphasizes the vital role of women to
 33 achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals and the
 34 necessity to promote gender equality and empowerment of wahine
 35 for global general well-being; and
 36

37 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is already involved in international
 38 initiatives to protect the planet and the Oceania region by
 39 actively participating in many United Nations annual sessions
 40 and meetings and by partnering with United Nations specialized
 41 agencies, programs, and funds, including partnering with the
 42 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



1 and participating in the United Nations Environment Programme;
2 and
3

4 WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, college, community, and capitol
5 dialogues on the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Development
6 Agenda, among other climate change topics, continue to generate
7 genuine insight that contributes to Voluntary Local Reviews,
8 which are voluntary reports to the United Nations on local
9 progress on implementing the United Nations sustainable
10 development goals; and
11

12 WHEREAS, local opportunities for the State's youth to learn
13 about and participate in climate change initiatives include
14 opportunities at colleges and universities that provide input on
15 achieving the Global Pact, with a focus on research and
16 innovation, and participation in a Hawai'i human rights and
17 resilience process; now, therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of
21 2019, that the State and each county are urged to adopt the
22 Global Pact to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and
23 the 2030 Development Agenda, and to specifically adopt the
24 United Nations sustainable development goals, numbers 13 through
25 17; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Global Pact should be
28 embraced and that protection of nature should be the centerpiece
29 of the State's policies and practices; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations Secretary
33 General and High Commissioner for Human Rights, President and
34 Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of
35 the United States Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the
36 United States Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
37 States House of Representatives, each member of Hawai'i's
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H.R. NO. 194

1 congressional delegation, Governor, and each mayor of the
2 several counties of the State.

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OFFERED BY:

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