

MAR 08 2019

SENATE 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



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;
42



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
37

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,
42



S.C.R. NO. 129

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
 3 Representatives 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.
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