
SENATE CONCURRENT 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
30



1 WHEREAS, the Aarhus Convention consists of numerous
2 articles covering ideas and coordinating implementation
3 including the following:
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- 5 (1) Access to Environmental Information;
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- 7 (2) Collection and Dissemination of Environmental
8 Information;
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- 10 (3) Public Participation in Decisions on Specific
11 Activities;
12
- 13 (4) Public Participation Concerning Plans, Programmes and
14 Policies Relating to the Environment;
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- 16 (5) Public Participation During the Preparation of
17 Executive Regulations and/or Generally Applicable
18 Legally Binding Normative Instruments; and
19
- 20 (6) Access to Justice; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the parties to the Aarhus Convention:
23

- 24 (1) Aimed to further accountability of and transparency in
25 decision-making and to strengthen public support for
26 decisions on the environment;
27
- 28 (2) Recognized that that the public needs to be aware of
29 procedures for participation in environmental
30 decision-making, have free access to the political
31 process, and know how to exercise that access;
32
- 33 (3) Recognized the importance of respective roles for
34 individual citizens, non-governmental organizations,
35 and the private sector in environmental protection;
36 and
37
- 38 (4) Desired to promote environmental education to further
39 the understanding of the environment and sustainable
40 development and to encourage widespread public
41 awareness of and participation in decisions affecting



1 the environment and sustainable development; now,
2 therefore,
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
6 Representatives concurring, that this body engages, endorses,
7 accepts, and adopts the Aarhus Convention; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
10 States is requested to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make
11 protection of the environment and decision-making on
12 environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and
13 practice; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
17 United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of
18 the United States House of Representatives, President Pro
19 Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the
20 United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the
21 United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the
22 United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States
23 Senate, Hawai'i's congressional delegation, Governor, mayor of
24 each county, Secretary General of the United Nations, United
25 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chairs of
26 Hawai'i's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

