

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE 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
31 and provide aesthetic value, enjoyment, water conservation, and
32 improved air quality; and
33



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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the ten goals of the NYDF are:
19

- 20 (1) Stop forest loss;
- 21
- 22 (2) Eliminate deforestation from agricultural activities;
- 23
- 24 (3) Reduce non-agricultural deforestation;
- 25
- 26 (4) Support alternatives to deforestation for subsistence
27 farming, fuel, and other basic needs;
- 28
- 29 (5) Restore forests;
- 30
- 31 (6) Quantify forest conservation and restoration targets
32 for 2030 as part of the 2030 Agenda SDGs;
- 33
- 34 (7) Reduce emissions from deforestation and forest
35 degradation in accordance with global climate
36 agreements;
- 37
- 38 (8) Provide financing for forest action;
- 39
- 40 (9) Reward countries and jurisdictions that reduce forest
41 emissions; and
42



1 (10) Strengthen governance, empower communities, and
2 recognize the rights of indigenous peoples; and
3

4 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF can accelerate progress with new
5 partnerships to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and
6 the United Nations 2030 Agenda; and
7

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF in Hawaii will allow for greater
31 coordination and communication between Hawaii and other NYDF
32 partners to share promising practices and support further
33 improvements for Hawaii's forests; and
34

35 WHEREAS, adopting the NYDF will link Hawaii's forest
36 practitioners to a global network with relevant expertise and
37 capacity to support the implementation of the forest elements of
38 commitments under the Paris Agreement that; now, therefore,
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
41 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that this body



1 engages, endorses, accepts, and adopts the New York Declaration
2 on Forests; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges federal
5 leaders and the nation to embrace the goals of the NYDF and the
6 2030 Agenda and make sustainable development the centerpiece of
7 national social and sustainable policies; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
11 Vice President of the United States, Speaker of the United
12 States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United
13 States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United
14 States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States Senate,
15 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, United Nations
16 Secretary General, United Nations General Assembly President,
17 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, NYDF Platform
18 Secretariat, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework
19 Convention on Climate Change, United Nations High Level
20 Political Forum, and mayors of each county.

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OFFERED BY:

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