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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS TREE AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, trees have been identified as an important tool in  
2 mitigating global climate change by reducing the world's carbon  
3 footprint and helping communities become healthier; and  
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5           WHEREAS, trees contribute to the environment by cleaning  
6 the air, removing odors and pollutant gases, filtering  
7 particulates out of the air, providing oxygen, and removing and  
8 storing carbon while releasing oxygen back in the air; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, trees cool heat-absorbing streets and buildings up  
11 to ten degrees Fahrenheit; shade homes and streets by releasing  
12 water vapor into the air through their leaves, which encourages  
13 residents to walk thereby improving their health; and contribute  
14 to more vitality in communities;  
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16           WHEREAS, trees shield children from ultraviolet B rays  
17 (UVB) by reducing UVB exposure by almost fifty percent and can  
18 provide protection to children on school campuses and  
19 playgrounds where children spend many hours outdoors; and  
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21           WHEREAS, well-documented studies confirm the positive  
22 effects of trees on health, including helping patients recover  
23 more quickly from surgery and lowering a person's blood  
24 pressure; and  
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26           WHEREAS, well-documented studies also confirm the positive  
27 effects of trees on productivity by aiding in concentration and  
28 reducing mental fatigue, including improving the performance of  
29 office workers in their jobs and students' performance in  
30 achieving higher test scores and graduation rates when trees are  
31 visible through their windows; and



1 WHEREAS, trees in an island state, such as Hawaii, are a  
2 crucial part of sustainable living; are important to the State's  
3 agricultural economy, including the harvested fruit and wood  
4 industries; and can provide green jobs and opportunities for  
5 small businesses; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has  
8 reported planting street trees to be "the single largest  
9 benefit" to property values and trees planted in well-selected  
10 locations on streets can raise property values; and

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12 WHEREAS, trees planted along streets, sidewalks, and  
13 parking lots can help absorb heat energy and dust, mask concrete  
14 walls and unsightly views, muffle sound from freeways, create an  
15 eye-soothing canopy of green, slow traffic, and give civic pride  
16 and identity to neighborhoods; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, trees also contribute to the business economy, as  
19 studies show that more trees and landscaping in a business  
20 district encourage increased business into that district; and

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22 WHEREAS, in a tourism-based economy, having trees in the  
23 State's surroundings is vitally important since trees contribute  
24 to tourists' appreciation of the beauty of Hawaii, cool the  
25 areas where tourists are walking, and increase their pleasure  
26 while hiking and other tourist experiences; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, community organizations in Hawaii, including Trees  
29 for Honolulu's Future, Healthy Climate Communities, Smart Trees  
30 Pacific, and Outdoor Circle, have endeavored to increase tree  
31 knowledge and awareness; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, Dr. Camilo Mora, of the MoraLab of the Carbon  
34 Neutrality Project of the Geography and Environment Department  
35 at University of Hawaii, has engaged students and parents in  
36 planting trees to reach carbon neutrality goals;

37  
38 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
39 acknowledges that "trees literally hold our island state  
40 together," and "help define Hawaii's sense of place, that  
41 special connection between our diverse cultures and the  
42 environment, the land and its people"; and



