
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROMOTING A "GREEN CHRISTMAS" BY ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO
SELECT PLANTABLE NATIVE TREES FOR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS TO
HELP ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces significant and costly impacts from
2 climate change, including more than \$19,000,000,000 in coastal
3 losses from rising seas, increasing summer heatwaves, loss of
4 coral reefs and native species, and threats to public health and
5 safety; and

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7 WHEREAS, warming waters are increasing the strength and
8 number of hurricanes and storms that impact the State,
9 contributing to the rising costs of insurance and disaster
10 response; and

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12 WHEREAS, to protect local families, create new jobs and
13 economic opportunities, and partner with other states and
14 countries to address the climate crisis, the State has committed
15 to having one hundred percent clean electricity and ground
16 transportation and economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2045; and

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18 WHEREAS, one of the easiest and cheapest ways to complement
19 state mitigation efforts and reduce the impacts of climate
20 change is to plant more trees, which helps to reduce and
21 sequester carbon in the atmosphere; and

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23 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Hawaii families celebrate
24 the holidays each year by purchasing a Christmas tree that is
25 typically imported at great cost from the continental United
26 States; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents realize that importing evergreen
29 trees from across the Pacific Ocean increases transportation



1 costs and carbon emissions, and adds to the post-holiday waste
2 stream as trees are disposed of; and

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4 WHEREAS, a cheaper and more sustainable way to celebrate
5 the holidays would be to display indigenous trees in pots, which
6 can be permanently planted in the ground after holiday
7 celebrations have ended; and

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9 WHEREAS, moving away from using imported trees that must be
10 disposed of to instead embrace locally-grown native trees, which
11 continue to have ecological value after being permanently
12 planted in the ground, can help to reduce holiday expenses for
13 residents, promote local agriculture, increase support for small
14 farmers, reforest arid lands, provide homes for native species,
15 reduce ambient temperature, sequester carbon, and renew local
16 values of aloha; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
20 2020, the Senate concurring, that the public is encouraged to
21 select plantable native trees for holiday celebrations to help
22 address the climate crisis; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenhouse Gas
25 Sequestration Task Force is requested to design a scalable pilot
26 program that supports the use of plantable native trees instead
27 of imported evergreen trees; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Climate Change
30 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and subject matter experts
31 at the University of Hawaii having relevant experience are
32 requested to provide support to the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration
33 Task Force in establishing the pilot program, as necessary; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
36 is requested to work with interested nurseries and other
37 stakeholders to promote the local production and marketing of
38 trees indigenous to Hawaii for use during the holidays; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
41 Natural Resources is requested to work with public and private
42 stakeholders to identify and prepare land for reforestation,



H.C.R. NO. 198

1 with respect to trees that become available for planting each
2 January as a result of the pilot program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the
Board of Land and Natural Resources, President of the University
of Hawaii System, Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, and Chairperson of the
Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 6 2020

