
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE
COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND
EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

1 WHEREAS, global warming has now raised the air temperature
2 about one degree Celsius, and scientists have documented that
3 this extra heat is already having a dramatic impact on the
4 environment: larger and stronger hurricanes, increased drought
5 and flooding, shifting rain patterns, more and larger wildfires,
6 a hotter and more acidic ocean, and damaged ecosystems, both
7 marine and terrestrial, across the planet; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent
10 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,
11 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above
12 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the
13 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in 2017 over fifteen thousand scientists published
16 a "Warning to Humanity" declaring that greenhouse gases produced
17 from human activities have "pushed Earth's ecosystems to their
18 breaking point", and in 2019 over eleven thousand scientists
19 declared unequivocally that "planet Earth is facing a climate
20 emergency" and it will now take "an immense increase of scale in
21 endeavors to conserve our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas
25 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate
26 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, ten
27 years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel
28 on Climate Change (IPCC), and 2 degrees Celsius by 2045; and



1 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and
2 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences
3 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby
4 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people,
5 warranting preemptive and protective action; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public
8 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of
9 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and
10

11 WHEREAS, 1,330 jurisdictions in twenty-six countries have
12 already declared a climate emergency as of January 28, 2020;
13 now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
17 2020, the Senate concurring, that this body acknowledges that an
18 existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural
19 world and declares a climate emergency and requests statewide
20 collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency
21 mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and
24 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:
25

26 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a
27 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean
28 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a
29 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the
30 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and
31 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will
32 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero
33 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth
34 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
35 Celsius;
36

37 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private
38 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the
39 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and
40 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling
41 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects
42 and workforce retraining;



1 (3) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and
2 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric
3 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the
4 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;
5 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-
6 friendly land use; and
7

8 (4) Organization and tracking of a time-phased
9 implementation plan, assigning state government
10 agencies responsibilities and timetables and
11 establishing task dependencies between departments,
12 with a priority to plan and coordinate, at a statewide
13 level, all climate and resilience responses, including
14 emergency mitigation of climate change effects,
15 resilience, adaptation, engagement, education,
16 advocacy, and research and development programs,
17 beginning with a robust climate emergency public
18 education and stakeholder outreach process, and
19 including a Climate Impacts section to all
20 departmental reports utilizing lifecycle greenhouse
21 gas analysis that provides meaningful information on
22 how proposed actions will impact greenhouse gas
23 reduction efforts; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide
26 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,
27 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the
28 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,
29 land, food, education, and shelter; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
32 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
33 act authorizing the exercise, during the period of a state
34 emergency or other type of declared emergency, of any special or
35 extraordinary power; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney
39 General; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
40 who also serves as Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii Climate Change
41 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Director of the Office of
42 Planning, who also serves as Chairperson of the Greenhouse Gas



H.C.R. NO. 57

1 Sequestration Task Force and Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii
 2 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and mayors
 3 of the City and County of Honolulu and counties of Hawaii,
 4 Kauai, and Maui.

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OFFERED BY: Tim Wingen

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