
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CORPORATIONS, CELEBRATING AND
COMMENDING THE PRACTICE OF BUSINESS AS A FORCE FOR GOOD,
AND SEEKING TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS CORPORATIONS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, chapter 420D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes
2 the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to designate,
3 based on a code of conduct, certain corporations as sustainable
4 business corporations; and
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6 WHEREAS, this designation offers entrepreneurs and
7 investors the option of building and investing in businesses
8 that operate in a socially and environmentally sustainable
9 manner; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
12 recognizes that sustainable business corporations have among
13 their purposes, the creation of a general public benefit; and
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15 WHEREAS, sustainable business corporations measure their
16 progress and publish annual reports to the public assessing
17 their overall social and environmental performance; and
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19 WHEREAS, sustainable business corporations provide a
20 structure to achieve meaningful public good alongside the
21 generation of profit; and
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23 WHEREAS, these businesses consider more than just the
24 shareholders and respect and dignify the labor and human rights
25 of everyone within their operational reach; and



1 WHEREAS, the goodwill of sustainable business corporations
2 considers stewardship of the environment and the limitation of
3 pollution; and
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5 WHEREAS, sustainable business corporations are competitive
6 in the free market due to rising compassion in consumer demand,
7 a happier and thus more productive labor force, more sustainable
8 and higher quality products and services, inherent
9 marketability, and increasing progressive legislation and
10 regulation against destructive business practices;
11 now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
15 2020, the Senate concurring, that this body supports sustainable
16 business corporations, celebrates and commends the practice of
17 business as a force for good, and seeks to increase the
18 percentage of sustainable business corporations as compared to
19 traditional for-profit entities; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
22 Consumer Affairs is encouraged to waive or significantly lower
23 the registration fee for new sustainable business corporations;
24 and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
27 Consumer Affairs is encouraged to waive or significantly lower
28 fees related to the conversion of traditional for-profit
29 entities to sustainable business corporations; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State provide business
32 grants to sustainable business corporations that have the
33 potential to do the most good; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Taxation is
36 requested to study how a small tax break for sustainable
37 business corporations may increase the statewide registration
38 rate of such entities, and submit a report, including its
39 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to this
40 body no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
41 Regular Session of 2021; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 2 Economic Development, and Tourism, in collaboration with the
 3 University of Hawaii, is requested to study the social and
 4 environmental impact of current operating sustainable business
 5 corporations, and submit a report, including its findings,
 6 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to this body no
 7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 8 Session of 2021; and

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 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
 12 Congressional Delegation; the Governor; Director of Commerce and
 13 Consumer Affairs; Director of Taxation; Director of Business,
 14 Economic Development, and Tourism; and the President of the
 15 University of Hawaii.

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