
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING IMMEDIATE AND
ACCELERATED ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND LIMIT
GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS.

1 WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that
2 presents a serious threat to global stability and human
3 existence; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental
6 Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts
7 of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas
8 emissions well before 2030 to hold warming to 1.5 degrees
9 celsius and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate
10 change; and
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12 WHEREAS, also in 2018, the United States' Fourth National
13 Climate Assessment made clear that climate change will wreak
14 havoc across the United States, and the current pace and scale
15 of national climate action is not sufficient to prevent
16 substantial damage to the economy, environment, and human health
17 in the coming decades; and
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19 WHEREAS, throughout the United States, communities of
20 color, low-wage workers, and low-income communities have been on
21 the frontline of longstanding environmental injustices and have
22 historically borne the brunt of the fossil fuel economy; and
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24 WHEREAS, the State is already suffering from impacts of
25 climate change in the form of increases in wildfires, higher air
26 and ocean temperatures, coastal erosion from sea level rise, and
27 extreme rain events; and



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1 WHEREAS, the State will suffer increased and more severe
2 impacts of climate change if global greenhouse gas emissions are
3 not significantly reduced; and
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5 WHEREAS, climate change will continue to make basic human
6 necessities such as food, housing, healthcare, transportation,
7 and energy more expensive and difficult to maintain, adding
8 additional pressure to the State's high cost of living; and
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10 WHEREAS, to stay within 1.5 degrees celsius, major
11 populations throughout the world will need to significantly
12 reduce their per capita emissions by 2030, and Hawaii has
13 already taken some steps toward this goal; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii remains a global climate action leader by
16 establishing a goal to reach one hundred percent carbon
17 neutrality by 2045; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
21 2020, the Senate concurring, that the State of Hawaii hereby
22 declares a state of climate emergency, given that the climate
23 crisis poses a serious and urgent threat to the well-being of
24 Hawaii, its inhabitants, and its environment; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to meet the State's ambitious
27 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the Hawaii Climate
28 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission is urged to make
29 recommendations for addressing key climate issues; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the State works on climate
32 issues, it is urged to continue to advance climate adaptation
33 efforts to address unavoidable current and future climate
34 impacts; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, mayors of



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1 each county, and each member of the Hawaii Climate Mitigation
2 and Adaptation Commission.

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OFFERED BY: Nicole E. Lowe

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