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## HOUSE 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  
4

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;  
15

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  
20

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  
32

33           WHEREAS, trees in an island state, such as Hawaii, are a  
34 crucial part of sustainable living; are important to the State's



1 agricultural economy, including the harvested fruit and wood  
2 industries; and can provide green jobs and opportunities for  
3 small businesses; and  
4

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, community organizations in Hawaii, including Trees  
27 for Honolulu's Future, Healthy Climate Communities, Smart Trees  
28 Pacific, and Outdoor Circle, have endeavored to increase tree  
29 knowledge and awareness; and  
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31 WHEREAS, Dr. Camilo Mora, of the MoraLab of the Carbon  
32 Neutrality Project of the Geography and Environment Department  
33 at University of Hawaii, has engaged students and parents in  
34 planting trees to reach carbon neutrality goals;  
35

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



# H.R. NO. 163

1           WHEREAS, Arbor Day is one day to help raise awareness of  
 2 the value and benefits of trees; however, a month would increase  
 3 public awareness and provide more adequate public recognition of  
 4 the multitude of benefits and importance of trees; and

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 6           WHEREAS, the public should be encouraged to learn more  
 7 about the value and benefits of trees to the State's economy,  
 8 culture, and environment; and

9  
 10          WHEREAS, particularly in Hawaii, an island state which  
 11 depends heavily on sustainability and tourism, designating April  
 12 as Tree Awareness Month would be an appropriate way to honor  
 13 trees and recognize trees' multitude of benefits, including  
 14 providing community building, and educational and economic  
 15 opportunities; now, therefore,

16  
 17          BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 18 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 19 2020, that April be designated as Tree Awareness Month in  
 20 Hawaii; and

21  
 22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
 24 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Mayor of each county.

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 26  
 27

OFFERED BY: *Ben*

MAR - 6 2020

