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## HOUSE 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

29  
30           WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and  
31 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences  
32 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby



1 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people,  
2 warranting preemptive and protective action; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public  
5 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of  
6 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, 1,330 jurisdictions in twenty-six countries have  
9 already declared a climate emergency as of January 28, 2020;  
10 now, therefore,

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
14 2020, that this body acknowledges that an existential climate  
15 emergency threatens humanity and the natural world and declares  
16 a climate emergency and requests statewide collaboration toward  
17 an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort  
18 to restore a safe climate; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and  
21 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:

- 22
- 23 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a  
24 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean  
25 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a  
26 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the  
27 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and  
28 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will  
29 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero  
30 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth  
31 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees  
32 Celsius;
  - 33  
34 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private  
35 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the  
36 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and  
37 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling  
38 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects  
39 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;  
 39 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, who also  
 40 serves as Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation  
 41 and Adaptation Commission; Director of the Office of Planning,



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

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OFFERED BY:

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