
HOUSE 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
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27 WHEREAS, the goodwill of sustainable business corporations
28 considers stewardship of the environment and the limitation of
29 pollution; and



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



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1 environmental impact of current operating sustainable business
 2 corporations, and submit a report, including its findings,
 3 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to this body no
 4 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 5 Session of 2021; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
 9 Congressional Delegation; the Governor; Director of Commerce and
 10 Consumer Affairs; Director of Taxation; Director of Business,
 11 Economic Development, and Tourism; and the President of the
 12 University of Hawaii.

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