

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS TREE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, trees have been identified as an important tool to
2 combat global climate change, reducing society'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, and filtering
7 particulates out of the air, removing and storing carbon while
8 releasing oxygen back into the air; and
9

10 WHEREAS, trees cool heat-absorbing streets and buildings up
11 to ten degrees Fahrenheit by releasing water vapor into the air
12 through their leaves, encouraging residents to walk thereby
13 improving their health, and contributing to more vital
14 communities and reducing UV-B exposure by almost fifty percent,
15 thus providing protection to children from exposure to ultra
16 violet rays on school campuses and playgrounds where children
17 spend hours outdoors; and
18

19 WHEREAS, well documented studies confirm the positive
20 effects of trees on health and productivity, including patients
21 recovering faster from surgery, lowering blood pressure, office
22 workers performing better with views of trees out their windows,
23 as well as students having higher test scores and graduation
24 rates with trees outside their school windows, aiding in
25 concentration by reducing mental fatigue; and
26

27 WHEREAS, trees in our island state are a crucial part of
28 sustainable living as well as important to our agricultural
29 economy through harvested fruit and wood, providing green jobs
30 and opportunities for small business; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture
33 reported street trees to be "the single largest benefit" to



1 property values, well planted trees can raise property values,
2 and that trees planted along streets, sidewalks, and parking
3 lots can help to absorb heat energy, dust, mask concrete walls,
4 and unsightly views, muffle sound from freeways and create eye
5 soothing canopy of green, slow traffic, give civic pride and
6 identity to neighborhoods; and
7

8 WHEREAS, in our tourism based economy, the beauty of the
9 surroundings is vitally important; and
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11 WHEREAS, studies show that the more trees and landscaping a
12 business district has, the more business will flow in. Trees
13 not only contribute beauty but cool areas where tourists walk,
14 in addition, hiking, the now popular forest bathing; and
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16 WHEREAS, state and community organizations have endeavored
17 to foster knowledge and awareness of trees, Trees for Honolulu's
18 Future, Healthy Climate Communities, Smart Trees Pacific and
19 Outdoor Circle, Dr. Camilo Mora of the Mora Lab Carbon
20 Neutrality Project of the University of Hawaii and the
21 Department of Land and Natural Resources which states "trees
22 literally hold our island state together, helping define our
23 island sense of place, that special connection between our
24 diverse cultures and the environment, the land and its people";
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Camilo Mora of Mora Lab of the
28 Geography and Environment Department at the University of Hawaii
29 heads the Carbon Neutrality Project. Arbor Day is one day to
30 help raise awareness of trees and a month would raise much
31 greater awareness and adequately recognize the multitude of
32 benefits and importance trees have, particularly an island state
33 which depends on more heavily on sustainability and tourism; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the public should be encouraged to learn more
36 about the value of trees and designating April as Tree Awareness
37 Month would be an appropriate way to honor trees and recognize
38 the multitude of benefits of trees for while also providing
39 community building, educational and economic opportunities
40 throughout the previously listed events; now, therefore,
41



S.C.R. NO. 218

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that April shall be designated as
4 Tree Awareness Month; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
8 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Mayors of all counties.

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OFFERED BY:

