

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, CONSUMER ADVOCATE, AND STATE ENERGY OFFICE, TO DEVELOP A REPORT PERTAINING TO THE STATE'S MANAGEMENT OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND FOSSIL FUEL REDUCTION GOALS.

1 WHEREAS, climate change poses immediate and long-term
2 threats to Hawaii's economy, sustainability, security, and way
3 of life; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature previously enacted Act 32, Session
6 Laws of Hawaii 2017, to document the State's commitment to
7 combat climate change by systematically reducing greenhouse gas
8 emissions and improving Hawaii's resiliency to combat climate
9 change by aligning with the principles and contributing to the
10 goals set forth in the Paris Agreement and Hawaii's share of
11 obligations within the expectations apportioned to the United
12 States; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Legislature established a Hawaii Greenhouse
15 Gas Program pursuant to Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007,
16 requiring that by January 2020, the State reduce statewide
17 greenhouse gas emissions to levels at or below the inventory of
18 greenhouse gas estimates for 1990; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's Hawaii Greenhouse Gas
21 Emissions Report for 2016, published in December 2019, found
22 Hawaii to be on track to meet its 2020 statewide emissions
23 target; and
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25 WHEREAS, section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
26 established the Zero Emissions Clean Economy Target to sequester
27 more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted within
28 the State as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045; and



1 WHEREAS, section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
2 that after January 1, 2020, agency plans, decisions, and
3 strategies shall give consideration to the State's ability to
4 achieve the goals of the Zero Emission Clean Economy Target; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Hawaii Climate
7 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission through section
8 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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10 WHEREAS, section 26-15(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
11 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to manage
12 and administer the public lands, various water and coastal
13 areas, forests and forest reserves, aquatic life, wildlife
14 resources, and state parks; and
15

16 WHEREAS, as a co-chair of the Hawaii Climate Change
17 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, the Director of the Office
18 of Planning is generally required by section 225M-2, Hawaii
19 Revised Statutes, to engage in state comprehensive planning and
20 program coordination; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature recently added responsibilities to
23 the Office of Planning to provide statewide sustainability
24 coordination and to revise and update the Hawaii 2050
25 Sustainability Plan, pursuant to Act 146, Session Laws of Hawaii
26 2019, which now serves as the State's climate and sustainability
27 action plan; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission is not a member of
30 the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission,
31 but is a regulating body and is required by section 269-6,
32 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the need to reduce the
33 State's reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and
34 increased renewable energy generation; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission is required to
37 consider the costs and benefits of a diverse fossil fuel
38 portfolio and of maximizing the efficiency of all electric
39 utility assets to lower and stabilize the cost of electricity;
40 and
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1 WHEREAS, the Consumer Advocate is tasked with representing,
2 protecting, and advancing the interest of all consumers and
3 businesses regarding utility services; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Consumer Advocate is required to consider the
6 long-term benefits of renewable resources; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature recently established the Hawaii
9 State Energy Office pursuant to Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii
10 2019, to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean
11 transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning, Department of Land and
15 Natural Resource, Public Utilities Commission, Consumer
16 Advocate, and the Hawaii State Energy Office appear to have
17 unclear jurisdiction as it relates to climate change,
18 sustainability, and decarbonization; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State and its departments and agencies must
21 work collaboratively to protect Hawaii's interests to achieve
22 these goals while preserving the natural environment,
23 diversifying the economy, and ensuring the social equity of the
24 people of Hawaii; and
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26 WHEREAS, the efforts to reduce greenhouse gases require
27 planning, coordination, and action among all stakeholders,
28 especially Hawaii's business community and private sector; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning published a report in 2019
31 on the Feasibility and Implications of Establishing a Carbon
32 Offset Program for the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
35 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
36 Representatives concurring, that the Governor is requested to
37 designate the State Sustainability Coordinator as the entity
38 responsible for the State's management of greenhouse gas
39 reduction goals; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Sustainability
42 Coordinator is requested to work with the Department of Land and



1 Natural Resources, Public Utilities Commission, Consumer
2 Advocate, Department of Health Greenhouse Gas Program, and the
3 State Energy Office to develop a report pertaining to the
4 State's management of greenhouse gases and fossil fuel reduction
5 goals; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
8 include the following:

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10 (1) Clear designations of agency roles as they relate to
11 greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel reduction
12 policies;

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14 (2) Identification of potential conflicting relationships
15 and solutions to those conflicts;

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17 (3) Greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel reduction
18 policy initiatives; and

19

20 (4) Recommended legislation to implement greenhouse gas
21 emission and fossil fuel reduction goals; and

22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of the Office of
24 Planning and the State Sustainability Coordinator are requested
25 to work with the Department of Health Greenhouse Gas Program,
26 Department of Land and Natural Resources, Public Utilities
27 Commission, and Hawaii State Energy Office to hold public
28 meetings related to the development of the report and to include
29 relevant members from the business community and the public to
30 observe and participate; and

31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Sustainability
33 Coordinator is requested to submit the report to the Legislature
34 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
35 Session of 2021; and

36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
39 the Public Utilities Commission, Deputy Director of the
40 Department of Health Environmental Health Administration, branch
41 manager of the Clean Air Branch, Chairperson of the Department
42 of Land and Natural Resources, Director of the Office of



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1 Planning, State Sustainability Coordinator, and Chief Energy
2 Officer.

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OFFERED BY: 

