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## SENATE 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  
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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  
19

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  
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30           WHEREAS, section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
31 that after January 1, 2020, agency plans, decisions, and



1 strategies shall give consideration to the State's ability to  
2 achieve the goals of the Zero Emission Clean Economy Target; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Hawaii Climate  
5 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission through section  
6 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, section 26-15(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
9 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to manage  
10 and administer the public lands, various water and coastal  
11 areas, forests and forest reserves, aquatic life, wildlife  
12 resources, and state parks; and  
13

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

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

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

34 WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission is required to  
35 consider the costs and benefits of a diverse fossil fuel  
36 portfolio and of maximizing the efficiency of all electric  
37 utility assets to lower and stabilize the cost of electricity;  
38 and  
39

40 WHEREAS, the Consumer Advocate is tasked with representing,  
41 protecting, and advancing the interest of all consumers and  
42 businesses regarding utility services; and



1           WHEREAS, the Consumer Advocate is required to consider the  
2 long-term benefits of renewable resources; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, the Legislature recently established the Hawaii  
5 State Energy Office pursuant to Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii  
6 2019, to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean  
7 transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy;  
8 and  
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10           WHEREAS, the Office of Planning, Department of Land and  
11 Natural Resource, Public Utilities Commission, Consumer  
12 Advocate, and the Hawaii State Energy Office appear to have  
13 unclear jurisdiction as it relates to climate change,  
14 sustainability, and decarbonization; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the State and its departments and agencies must  
17 work collaboratively to protect Hawaii's interests to achieve  
18 these goals while preserving the natural environment,  
19 diversifying the economy, and ensuring the social equity of the  
20 people of Hawaii; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, the efforts to reduce greenhouse gases require  
23 planning, coordination, and action among all stakeholders,  
24 especially Hawaii's business community and private sector; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, the Office of Planning published a report in 2019  
27 on the Feasibility and Implications of Establishing a Carbon  
28 Offset Program for the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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30           BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
32 Governor is requested to designate the State Sustainability  
33 Coordinator as the entity responsible for the State's management  
34 of greenhouse gas reduction goals; and  
35

36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Sustainability  
37 Coordinator is requested to work with the Department of Land and  
38 Natural Resources, Public Utilities Commission, Consumer  
39 Advocate, Department of Health Greenhouse Gas Program, and the  
40 State Energy Office to develop a report pertaining to the  
41 State's management of greenhouse gases and fossil fuel reduction  
42 goals; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
2 include the following:

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- 4 (1) Clear designations of agency roles as they relate to
- 5 greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel reduction
- 6 policies;
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- 8 (2) Identification of potential conflicting relationships
- 9 and solutions to those conflicts;
- 10
- 11 (3) Greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel reduction
- 12 policy initiatives; and
- 13
- 14 (4) Recommended legislation to implement greenhouse gas
- 15 emission and fossil fuel reduction goals; and
- 16

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

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Sustainability  
27 Coordinator is requested to submit the report to the Legislature  
28 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
29 Session of 2021; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Public  
33 Utilities Commission, Deputy Director of the Department of  
34 Health Environmental Health Administration, branch manager of  
35 the Clean Air Branch, Chairperson of the Department of Land and  
36 Natural Resources, Director of the Office of Planning, State  
37 Sustainability Coordinator, and Chief Energy Officer.

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40 OFFERED BY:

