

FEB 27 2020

SENATE 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



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

40 (3) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and
41 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric



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1 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the
 2 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;
 3 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-
 4 friendly land use; and

5
 6 (4) Organization and tracking of a time-phased
 7 implementation plan, assigning state government
 8 agencies responsibilities and timetables and
 9 establishing task dependencies between departments,
 10 with a priority to plan and coordinate, at a statewide
 11 level, all climate and resilience responses, including
 12 emergency mitigation of climate change effects,
 13 resilience, adaptation, engagement, education,
 14 advocacy, and research and development programs,
 15 beginning with a robust climate emergency public
 16 education and stakeholder outreach process, and
 17 including a Climate Impacts section to all
 18 departmental reports utilizing lifecycle greenhouse
 19 gas analysis that provides meaningful information on
 20 how proposed actions will impact greenhouse gas
 21 reduction efforts; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide
 24 action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,
 25 tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the
 26 world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,
 27 land, food, education, and shelter; and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure
 30 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any
 31 act authorizing the exercise, during the period of a state
 32 emergency or other type of declared emergency, of any special or
 33 extraordinary power; and

34
 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 36 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;
 37 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, who also
 38 serves as Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation
 39 and Adaptation Commission; Director of the Office of Planning,
 40 who also serves as Chairperson of the Greenhouse Gas
 41 Sequestration Task Force and Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii
 42 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and mayors



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1 of the City and County of Honolulu and counties of Hawaii,
2 Kauai, and Maui.

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