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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND EQUITY AND TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO COORDINATE THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

WHEREAS, climate change is already impacting the State with the increased frequency of extreme weather events, which bring unprecedented risks, damage, and costs to Hawaii's communities and residents; and

WHEREAS, the damage and costs of climate change will continue to grow without appropriate public action, saddling future generations with an extreme financial burden and significantly diminished health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the State has prioritized actions to mitigate the effects of climate change for the State and planet; and

WHEREAS, there remain additional steps the State can take to reduce its contributions to climate change and protect against the effects of climate change, particularly for Hawaii's most vulnerable population; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed legislation, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to deliver millions of dollars for necessary infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the funds granted by Congress offer an opportunity for the State to address key challenges resulting from climate change; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is requested to implement a plan to optimize the use of federal funds for climate resilience and equity throughout the State; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to establish an infrastructure task force, made up of relevant agencies and departments, to coordinate the use of federal funds for climate resilience and equity and to implement guidelines for state projects to ensure that they promote climate resilience and equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and infrastructure task force are requested to ensure that all eligible recipients of federal funding are given timely information and technical assistance throughout the application process for federal funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and infrastructure task force are requested to encourage any eligible recipients to apply for federal funding that would advance the State's climate resilience and equity goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and infrastructure task force are requested to collect relevant metrics on any actions taken in accordance with this resolution and to make those metrics available to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

OFFERED BY: May Hattal

