
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING HAWAII'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

1 WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human
2 activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global
3 climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one
4 of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
7 (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in
8 greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by the middle of this century in
9 order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to
10 1.5 degrees Celsius; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report from
13 Working Group II, which was approved by one hundred ninety-five
14 member states, in February 2022, and the summary for policy
15 makers notes that there is high confidence that "the rise in
16 weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible
17 impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their
18 ability to adapt"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio
21 Guterres, responded, "The IPCC is an atlas of human
22 suffering...according to current commitment, global emissions
23 are set to increase almost 14 percent....It will destroy any
24 chance of keeping 1.5 alive...coal and other fossil fuels are
25 choking humanity"; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 adopted
28 landmark legislation, Resolution 48/13, recognizing a clean,
29 healthy and sustainable environment is a human right; and
30



1 WHEREAS, changes in Hawaii's climate are already being
2 felt, as evidenced by rising sea levels, coastal inundation,
3 ocean warming as well as coral bleaching, heightened risk of
4 wild fires, and increasing severe storms; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the entire community is impacted by the health and
7 safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who
8 also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-
9 income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of
10 color and indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing
11 mental and physical disabilities, and people with health
12 conditions; and

13
14 WHEREAS, youth and future generations have the most to lose
15 from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as
16 they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and
17 economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of
18 climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious
19 diseases, and natural disasters; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal,
22 oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and
23 production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that
24 needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the Glasgow Climate Pact improved incrementally
27 only calling for a phase down not a phase out of coal; and

28
29 WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry
30 are currently planning to produce about one hundred twenty
31 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit
32 warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate
33 disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of the State to
34 reduce GHG emissions; and

35
36 WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming
37 over fifty percent of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic recovery
38 funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby
39 siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities and other
40 industries; and



1 WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure
2 and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to
3 untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and
4 global levels; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean
7 energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an
8 economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction;
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, the community is committed, as part of the climate
12 emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious
13 investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will
14 create jobs and rapidly decarbonize the economy; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Hawaii recognizes that it is the urgent
17 responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel
18 producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development
19 and to manage the decline of existing production; and

20
21 WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a
22 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil
23 fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in
24 line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
25 Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; now,
26 therefore,

27
28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that this body affirms the
31 State's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate
32 Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the GHG
33 reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and pledges to meet
34 its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris
35 Climate Agreement; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and each county are
38 requested to formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-
39 Proliferation Treaty; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. government is urged to
2 support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation
3 Treaty; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations
7 Secretary General and High Commissioner for Human Rights,
8 President and Vice President of the United States, President Pro
9 Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority and Minority
10 Leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader
11 of the United States House of Representatives, members of the
12 Hawaii congressional delegation, Governor, and Mayor of each
13 county.

