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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENGAGING, ENDORSING, ACCEPTING, AND ADOPTING THE AARHUS  
CONVENTION TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT,  
2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i is recognized as a global partner and local  
2 leader in promoting human rights to create a culture of  
3 democracy, rule of law, and protection of the planet through its  
4 adoption of global and regional standards to guide decision-  
5 making processes; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, Hawai'i is guided by traditional Hawaiian values  
8 and emerging international human rights visions to generate good  
9 governance and ensure participation in policymaking and  
10 protection of our islands and the planet; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations General  
13 Assembly adopted the historic 2030 Development Agenda entitled,  
14 "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
15 Development", a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and  
16 courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet,  
17 and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity; and

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19           WHEREAS, in December 2015, the United Nations Framework  
20 Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties agreed to the  
21 Paris Agreement, calling for the first time to limit future  
22 increases in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees  
23 Celsius; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
26 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in  
27 Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
28 (Aarhus Convention) is an important instrument for achieving the  
29 goals of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Development Agenda; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Aarhus Convention consists of numerous  
3 articles covering ideas and coordinating implementation,  
4 including the following:

- 5  
6 (1) Access to environmental information;  
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8 (2) Collection and dissemination of environmental  
9 information;  
10  
11 (3) Public participation in decisions on specific  
12 activities;  
13  
14 (4) Public participation concerning plans, programmes and  
15 policies relating to the environment;  
16  
17 (5) Public participation during the preparation of  
18 executive regulations and generally applicable legally  
19 binding normative instruments; and  
20  
21 (6) Access to justice; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the parties to the Aarhus Convention:

- 24  
25 (1) Aimed to further accountability of and transparency in  
26 decision-making and to strengthen public support for  
27 decisions on the environment;  
28  
29 (2) Recognized that the public needs to be aware of  
30 procedures for participation in environmental  
31 decision-making, have free access to the political  
32 process, and know how to exercise that participation  
33 and access;  
34  
35 (3) Recognized the importance of respective roles for  
36 individual citizens, non-governmental organizations,  
37 and the private sector in environmental protection;  
38 and  
39  
40 (4) Desired to promote environmental education to further  
41 the understanding of the environment and sustainable  
42 development and to encourage widespread public



1 awareness of and participation in decisions affecting  
2 the environment and sustainable development; now,  
3 therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that this body engages,  
8 endorses, accepts, and adopts the Aarhus Convention to achieve  
9 the United Nations Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
10 Development, and Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and  
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United  
13 States is urged to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make  
14 protection of the environment and decision-making on  
15 environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and  
16 practice; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary General of  
20 the United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Human  
21 Rights, President of the United States, Vice President of the  
22 United States, Speaker of the United States House of  
23 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States  
24 Senate, Majority Leader of the United States House of  
25 Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of  
26 Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
27 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, members of the  
28 Hawai'i congressional delegation, Governor, Co-Chairs of the  
29 Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, and  
30 mayor of each county.  
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