
SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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31 WHEREAS, changes in Hawaii's climate are already being
32 felt, as evidenced by rising sea levels, coastal inundation,



1 ocean warming as well as coral bleaching, heightened risk of
2 wild fires, and increasing severe storms; and
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4 WHEREAS, the entire community is impacted by the health and
5 safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who
6 also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-
7 income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of
8 color and indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing
9 mental and physical disabilities, and people with health
10 conditions; and
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12 WHEREAS, youth and future generations have the most to lose
13 from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as
14 they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and
15 economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of
16 climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious
17 diseases, and natural disasters; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal,
20 oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and
21 production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that
22 needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and
23

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

27 WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry
28 are currently planning to produce about one hundred twenty
29 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit
30 warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate
31 disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of the State to
32 reduce GHG emissions; and
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34 WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming
35 over fifty percent of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic recovery
36 funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby
37 siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities and other
38 industries; and
39

40 WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure
41 and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to



1 untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and
2 global levels; and
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4 WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean
5 energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an
6 economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction;
7 and
8

9 WHEREAS, the community is committed, as part of the climate
10 emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious
11 investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will
12 create jobs and rapidly decarbonize the economy; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii recognizes that it is the urgent
15 responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel
16 producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development
17 and to manage the decline of existing production; and
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19 WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a
20 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil
21 fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in
22 line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees
23 Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; now,
24 therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
28 that this body affirms the State's ongoing commitment to the
29 goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN Sustainable
30 Development Goals, and the GHG reduction targets as called for
31 by the IPCC, and pledges to meet its proportionate greenhouse
32 gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and each county are
35 requested to formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-
36 Proliferation Treaty; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. government is urged to
39 support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation
40 Treaty; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the United Nations Secretary
3 General and High Commissioner for Human Rights, President and
4 Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of
5 the United States Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the
6 United States Senate, Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
7 States House of Representatives, members of the Hawaii
8 congressional delegation, Governor, and Mayor of each county.

