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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ADOPT A PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AND THE ELECTORATE TO RATIFY THE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT, GUARANTEEING ALL INDIVIDUALS THE RIGHT  
TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND A STABLE CLIMATE.

1           WHEREAS, millions of people in the United States lack  
2 access to safe water, and almost everyone in the world is  
3 exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian culture and traditional and  
6 customary practices are intrinsically connected to and  
7 inseparable from the environment as a source and foundation for  
8 cultural continuity; and  
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10           WHEREAS, since the construction of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel  
11 Storage Facility near Pearl Harbor, the United States Navy has  
12 leaked at least one hundred eighty thousand gallons, and  
13 potentially as much as 1.94 million gallons, of jet fuel into  
14 potable water sources, affecting the safety of water sources for  
15 at least ninety thousand Hawaii residents; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in the last century, air temperatures have  
18 increased between one-half and one degree Fahrenheit; and  
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20           WHEREAS, this increase in temperature has led to rising sea  
21 levels, affecting Hawaii's shorelines and coastal communities;  
22 ocean warming and acidification, harming Hawaii's delicate coral  
23 reefs and marine ecosystems; land ecosystem changes, potentially  
24 causing native plant species to fail to thrive in altered  
25 habitats; and a decrease in fresh water availability due to a  
26 reduction in aquifer recharge and reduction in flow of Hawaii's  
27 streams and rivers; and  
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1           WHEREAS, an environmental rights amendment is an amendment  
2 to a state constitution's Bill of Rights that guarantees its  
3 citizens the inalienable right to a healthy environment, stable  
4 climate, clean air, and clean water; and  
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6           WHEREAS, this body finds that rights to a clean and healthy  
7 environment, including clean air and waters, fertile soils,  
8 healthy ecosystems, living reefs, and a stable climate; the  
9 control of pollution; and the conservation, protection, and  
10 enhancement of the natural, native, cultural, scenic, and  
11 healthful qualities of the environment, are fundamental and  
12 inherent; and  
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14           WHEREAS, Montana, New York, and Pennsylvania have already  
15 adopted environmental rights amendments to their constitutions  
16 to emphasize environmental health and safety as part of basic  
17 civil liberties; now, therefore,  
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19           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the State of Hawaii  
22 is encouraged to adopt a proposed constitutional amendment, and  
23 the electorate is encouraged to ratify the proposed amendment,  
24 guaranteeing all individuals the right to a clean and healthy  
25 environment and a stable climate; and  
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27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

