
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST BIG OIL CORPORATIONS FOR CLIMATE DAMAGES TO THE STATE AND ENGAGE A THIRD-PARTY LAW FIRM THAT HAS EXPERTISE IN THIS LEGAL AREA.

1 WHEREAS, big oil companies often engage in practices to
2 purposefully deceive the public about their negative
3 environmental impact to further their business objectives and
4 profits; and

5
6 WHEREAS, according to the Columbia Center on Sustainable
7 Investment, big oil companies such as BP, Chevron, Eni,
8 ExxonMobil, Shell, and Total Energies jointly account for nearly
9 twenty-three percent of the cumulative global carbon footprint
10 of the oil refining sector, which reflects a significant market
11 concentration; and

12
13 WHEREAS, this enormous carbon footprint, or calculated
14 amount of greenhouse gas emissions that an activity, person,
15 country, or company adds to the atmosphere irrefutably leads to
16 global warming and climate change; and

17
18 WHEREAS, climate change has burdened the State with
19 enormous costs to fix severe damages to state infrastructure due
20 to sea level rise and state marine resources due to ocean
21 acidification and warming; and

22
23 WHEREAS, climate change has resulted in further costs to
24 the State for the need to air condition schools, libraries, and
25 other state buildings or recover from more frequent and intense
26 environmental disasters; and

27
28 WHEREAS, in October 2023, the Hawaii Supreme Court rejected
29 claims made by defendants in a City and County of Honolulu
30 lawsuit that big oil and gas companies do not fall within state



H.R. NO. 177

1 court jurisdiction and that there is no public nuisance claim
2 for a climate damages case under Hawaii law; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County's
5 current lawsuits against big oil companies are limited to the
6 costs to those counties and do not address climate change costs
7 to the State; and

8
9 WHEREAS, currently, nine other state attorney generals have
10 filed similar lawsuits against big oil companies in the United
11 States; now, therefore,

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
15 Session of 2024, that the Attorney General is requested to file
16 a lawsuit against big oil corporations for climate damages to
17 the State and engage a third-party law firm that has expertise
18 in this legal area; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Attorney General.

22
23
24

OFFERED BY: *Liana Merten*

MAR 08 2024

