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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND EMPLOYER-UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUEL  
INVESTMENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a strong and necessary  
2 commitment to sustainability; and

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4           WHEREAS, the State has adopted the goal of meeting 40  
5 percent of its energy needs through renewable energy sources by  
6 2030; and

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8           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System, the Hawaii's  
9 largest institution of higher learning and research, has adopted  
10 Executive Policy 4.202, which sets a university goal of carbon  
11 neutrality by 2050; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the effects  
14 of global warming; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, continued rising of sea levels caused by global  
17 warming threaten to erode State beaches and dramatically alter  
18 shorelines; and

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20           WHEREAS, continued increases in ocean temperatures caused  
21 by global warming may cause irreversible harm to ocean  
22 ecosystems, including the widespread bleaching of coral and  
23 increased stress for native plants and animals; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, higher average temperatures caused by global  
26 warming may also increase the incidence of heat-related  
27 illnesses such as dengue fever and cholera; and



1 WHEREAS, global warming has also affected global weather  
2 patterns, leading to periods of drought and flooding worldwide,  
3 and to disruptions in tradewind and rainfall patterns in the  
4 State; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, fossil fuel usage is often cited by scientists as  
7 a primary driver of global warming; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, many of the world's leaders have taken steps to  
10 curb fossil fuel usage and global warming, such as in December,  
11 2015, when an international agreement was reached at the United  
12 Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris to limit global  
13 warming to below two degrees centigrade; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, many countries have adopted and will continue to  
16 adopt laws that address climate change, evidenced by the over  
17 800 laws that address climate change worldwide today, nearly  
18 double the amount since 2009; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, many of these laws, regulations, and restrictions  
21 regarding fossil fuel usage will undoubtedly have effects on the  
22 value of coal, oil, and gas companies; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the value of fossil fuel stocks has already  
25 decreased by nearly one-third in the past two years; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the New York State Retirement Fund lost at least  
28 \$5.3 billion from their investments in top coal, oil, and gas  
29 companies; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, fossil fuel stock prices face further valuation  
32 concerns due to restrictions on fossil fuel reserve consumption  
33 set by international global warming goals adopted during the  
34 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, financial experts, including the Executive  
37 Director for Supervisory Risk and Regulatory Operations of the  
38 Bank of England, Paul Fisher; former United States Treasury  
39 Secretary, Hank Paulson; former Securities and Exchange  
40 Commissioner Bevis Longstreth; and analysts at Citigroup, AXA  
41 Investment Managers, Goldman Sachs, Standard and Poor's, and  
42 HSBC have warned of a looming carbon financial bubble; and



1 WHEREAS, the declining value of fossil fuel stocks may pose  
2 an ongoing problem for investors given the global push toward  
3 renewable energy; and  
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5 WHEREAS, two of the largest pension funds in the nation,  
6 California's CalPERS and CALSTRS, have divested from holdings in  
7 coal mining companies in response to legislation adopted by the  
8 California State Legislature; and  
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10 WHEREAS, it is clear that divestment from holdings in  
11 fossil fuels is not only fiscally sound, but also in the best  
12 interest of the State's marine and terra environments; now,  
13 therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Employees'  
18 Retirement System and Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund  
19 are urged to divest all holdings in companies and stocks with a  
20 majority interest in fossil fuels no later than the year 2021;  
21 and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
25 of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System and the  
26 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Employer-Union  
27 Health Benefits Trust Fund.  
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*Cindy Evans*

MAR 11 2016

