

MAR 04 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

1           WHEREAS, in 2018, the State adopted legislation committed  
2 to complying with the Paris Climate Agreement to reach carbon  
3 neutrality by 2045; and  
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5           WHEREAS, coastal erosion threatens nearly every beach in  
6 Hawaii and has caused more than thirteen miles of shoreline to  
7 be lost throughout the islands; and  
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9           WHEREAS, local experts estimate that the sea level will  
10 rise by three feet as early as 2060 and cause at least  
11 \$19,000,000,000 in damage by the end of the century; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the sediment released from erosion also decreases  
14 ocean water quality and causes ocean acidification, both of  
15 which are harmful to local reefs; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, in 2019, petroleum-fired energy accounted for  
18 approximately 70.4 percent of Hawaii's net electricity  
19 generation (6,864 MWh) while forms of renewable energy, such as  
20 conventional hydroelectric, all utility-scale solar, wind,  
21 geothermal, and biomass, accounted for only 12.14 percent of the  
22 State's net electricity generation; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, the State is legally required to obtain one  
25 hundred percent of its electricity from renewable sources by  
26 2040 as outlined in its renewable portfolio standards; and  
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28           WHEREAS, professors at Cornell University affirm that  
29 environmental education is an essential element of the global  
30 response to climate change and climate literacy promotes  
31 students rethinking their attitudes and decisions; and  
32



# S.C.R. NO. 61

1 WHEREAS, the State is particularly vulnerable to natural  
2 disaster exacerbated by climate change through wildfires or  
3 major storms, and students in the State would especially benefit  
4 from environmental education to foster community and socio-  
5 ecological resilience; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
8 responsible for managing the State's coastal waters, beaches,  
9 state parks, and public lands, including seven hundred fifty  
10 miles of coastline, 1,300,000 acres of state lands, and fifty-  
11 two state parks; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
14 the agency tasked with caring for the State's plant and wildlife  
15 sanctuaries, conservation districts, watershed protection,  
16 natural area reserves, and protecting native resources,  
17 including the preservation of endangered species and unique  
18 ecosystems; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of  
21 Land and Natural Resources was budgeted \$185,298,304 in the  
22 Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget out of a statewide total  
23 of \$16,197,208,201, constituting only 1.1 percent of the  
24 Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu's Office of  
27 Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience plays a critical  
28 role in Hawaii's response to climate change by monitoring the  
29 evolution of climate science, coordinating the response and  
30 policies within the City and County of Honolulu, integrating  
31 sustainable and environmental values into legislation, and  
32 prioritizing community preparedness; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, ecological restoration projects in support of the  
35 recovery of damaged or destroyed ecosystems is extremely  
36 valuable in mitigating the negative effects of climate change,  
37 by enhancing the extent and functioning of carbon sinks and  
38 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

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40 WHEREAS, most ecological restoration projects are community  
41 efforts. For example, Hui o Koolaupoko works with volunteers at  
42 the Heeia Estuary to remove invasive species, which filters



1 stormwater runoff, fosters native species growth, and aids in  
2 erosion control; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, forty governments worldwide have already  
5 implemented some form of carbon emission regulation, through  
6 either a direct carbon tax or a cap-and-trade program, which  
7 results in a drastic reduction in coal use and carbon emissions,  
8 a necessary step in combating climate change. For example,  
9 Sweden introduced an extensive carbon tax in 1995, which has  
10 since shrunk their carbon emissions by twenty-five percent,  
11 while growing their economy by seventy-five percent; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, economists from across the political spectrum  
14 almost universally support a tax on carbon emissions, as it can  
15 stimulate a country's economy and create an incentive to invest  
16 in the green energy industry; now, therefore,

17  
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
20 House of Representatives concurring, that this body reaffirms  
21 Hawaii's commitment to combating climate change and prioritizing  
22 climate change legislation; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to focusing  
25 on climate change legislation that reduces greenhouse gas  
26 emissions as laid out in the framework of the 2016 Paris Climate  
27 Accord; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State continue its  
30 commitment to set ambitious goals for carbon sequestration,  
31 decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease of the  
32 State's dependence on imported fuels; and

33  
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will persist in its  
35 mission to reach carbon neutrality and use renewable sources to  
36 obtain one hundred percent of the State's electricity by 2040  
37 and will prioritize the establishment of a green energy industry  
38 within the islands by supporting renewable sources of energy and  
39 green initiatives; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will commit to  
42 considering the scope and importance of the Department of Land



# S.C.R. NO. 61

1 and Natural Resources' mission when determining future statewide  
2 supplemental operating budgets to ensure the Department is  
3 capable of protecting and preserving the flora and fauna under  
4 its jurisdiction, which is a critical component of Hawaii's  
5 response to climate change; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State recognizes the  
8 importance of raising awareness about the climate crisis and  
9 advocating for climate literacy and will promote youth climate  
10 literacy and increased public awareness; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will support  
13 ecological restoration projects to integrate government and  
14 community level efforts to restore native plants and animals to  
15 their local habitats and the positive impacts these projects can  
16 have in regard to climate change; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
20 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the  
21 Director of the Office of Planning.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JDL', is written over a horizontal line.