

MAR 04 2021

---

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE  
COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND  
EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

1           WHEREAS, global warming has now raised the average global  
2 air temperature about one degree Celsius, and scientists have  
3 documented that this extra heat is already having a dramatic  
4 impact on the environment: larger and stronger hurricanes,  
5 increased drought and flooding, shifting rain patterns, more and  
6 larger wildfires, a hotter and more acidic ocean, and damaged  
7 ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial, across the planet; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent  
10 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,  
11 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above  
12 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the  
13 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists  
16 published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse  
17 gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's  
18 ecosystems to their breaking point"; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty six  
21 countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming  
22 that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will  
23 now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve  
24 our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas  
27 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate  
28 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 - ten  
29 years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel  
30 on Climate Change (IPCC), and two degrees Celsius by 2045; and  
31

32           WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and  
33 expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences



# S.R. NO. 30

1 as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby  
2 endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people,  
3 warranting preemptive and protective action; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public  
6 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of  
7 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, 1,864 jurisdictions in thirty-three countries have  
10 already declared a climate emergency as of January 26, 2021;  
11 now, therefore,  
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
15 that this body acknowledges that an existential climate  
16 emergency threatens humanity and the natural world, declares a  
17 climate emergency, and requests statewide collaboration toward  
18 an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort  
19 to restore a safe climate; and  
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these climate mitigation and  
22 adaptation efforts mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:  
23

- 24 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a  
25 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean  
26 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a  
27 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the  
28 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and  
29 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will  
30 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero  
31 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth  
32 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees  
33 Celsius;  
34
- 35 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private  
36 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the  
37 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and  
38 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling  
39 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects  
40 and workforce retraining;  
41



# S.R. NO. 30

1           (3)   Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and  
2           infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric  
3           vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the  
4           State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;  
5           afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-  
6           friendly land use; and  
7

8           (4)   Organization and tracking of a time-phased  
9           implementation plan that assigns state government  
10          agencies' responsibilities and timetables; establishes  
11          task dependencies between departments with a priority  
12          to plan and coordinate, at a statewide level, all  
13          climate and resilience responses, including emergency  
14          mitigation of climate change effects, resilience,  
15          adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and  
16          research and development programs, all of which begin  
17          with a robust climate emergency public education and  
18          stakeholder outreach process; and requires all  
19          departmental reports that utilize a lifecycle  
20          greenhouse gas analysis to include a Climate Impacts  
21          section, which will provide meaningful information on  
22          how proposed actions will impact greenhouse gas  
23          reduction efforts; and  
24

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State commits to statewide  
26          action that is rooted in equity, self-determination, culture,  
27          tradition, and the belief that people locally and around the  
28          world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water,  
29          land, food, education, and shelter; and  
30

31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure  
32          constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any  
33          act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary  
34          power during the period of a state emergency or other type of  
35          declared emergency; and  
36  
37



# S.R. NO. 30

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;  
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director  
4 of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and County of  
5 Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

6  
7  
8

OFFERED BY: 

