

MAR 11 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL
WARMING TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING
ON THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there is consensus in the scientific community
2 that global warming and climate change are occurring at an
3 accelerated pace and pose a threat to human society; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the effects of global warming have the potential
6 to impact the citizens, natural resources, and economy of
7 Hawaii; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Hawaii, as an island state, is particularly
10 vulnerable to rising ocean levels as a consequence of global
11 warming; and
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13 WHEREAS, rising sea levels would have specific impacts on
14 Hawaii, including shoreline erosion, difficulties in air and sea
15 shipping, encroachment on existing buildings and infrastructure,
16 and population health effects; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the State must take action to address the near-
19 term and long-term effects of global warming and rising ocean
20 levels; and
21

22 WHEREAS, before action may be taken, efforts must be made
23 to fully predict and evaluate the effects that rising ocean
24 levels and other consequences of climate change will have upon
25 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
29 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a Global
30 Warming Task Force to assess the effects of global warming in
31 the State; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Global Warming Task Force
34 is requested to:



- 1
- 2 (1) Assess the current and potential impacts of climate
- 3 warming trends on the citizens, natural resources, and
- 4 the economy of the State, including impacts on:
- 5
- 6 (A) The visitor industry;
- 7
- 8 (B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 9 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 10
- 11 (C) Existing buildings and public utilities
- 12 infrastructure;
- 13
- 14 (D) Population health; and
- 15
- 16 (E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems; and
- 17
- 18 (2) Assess the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as
- 19 a result of climate change on the citizens, natural
- 20 resources, and the economy of the State, including
- 21 impacts on:
- 22
- 23 (A) The visitor industry;
- 24
- 25 (B) Shoreline erosion;
- 26
- 27 (C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 28 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 29
- 30 (D) Existing buildings and public utilities
- 31 infrastructure;
- 32
- 33 (E) Population health; and
- 34
- 35 (F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems; and
- 36
- 37 (3) Estimate the costs to the State and its citizens of
- 38 adverse effects associated with climate warming and
- 39 rising sea levels; and
- 40
- 41 (4) Make recommendations to the Legislature and the
- 42 Governor on measures that would address or mitigate
- 43 the near- and long-term effects of climate change,
- 44 including:



- 1
- 2 (A) Preventing shoreline erosion;
- 3
- 4 (B) Preserving the visitor industry;
- 5
- 6 (C) Improving or relocating transportation
- 7 infrastructure such as airports and shipping
- 8 terminals;
- 9
- 10 (D) Implementing restrictions on construction in
- 11 affected areas;
- 12
- 13 (E) Improving or hardening utilities infrastructure;
- 14
- 15 (F) Preparing for health emergencies; and
- 16
- 17 (G) Maintaining the health and resilience of native
- 18 species and ecosystems; and
- 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that membership of the Global
21 Warming Task Force shall consist of knowledgeable
22 representatives from state and county government, emergency
23 first responders, community stakeholders, affected industries,
24 the military, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the
25 scientific community; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Global Warming Task Force
28 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the
30 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
31 the Regular Session of 2010; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
35 Health, the Adjutant General, the Mayor and the Chairperson of
36 the Council for each county, President of the University of
37 Hawaii, and the Commander of the United States Pacific Command.

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40 OFFERED BY: Clarence V. Iwihara