SENATE RESOLUTION

ENDORSing And ADOPTING OF THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16 FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE LIKE ACTION.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is a place of peace in the Pacific and its people believe in creating a better world for all; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii supports the United Nations sustainable development goals and recognizes the interconnectedness of all goals to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development around the globe; and

WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than fifty thousand nuclear warheads, but approximately thirteen thousand eight hundred of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS, over ninety percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii witnessed how the chaos and harm even a missile threat lasting for only thirty minutes can impact the islands; and

WHEREAS, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as one hundred Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental
damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping
temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last
ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human
race would starve and could lead to human extinction as a
species; and

WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist
solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been
many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use
these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute;
and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical
quality that prevents their use; and

WHEREAS, the former Defense Secretary said, speaking about
the Cuban Missile Crisis, "[i]t was luck that prevented nuclear
war," yet the United States' nuclear policy cannot be the hope
that luck will continue; and

WHEREAS, as the effects of climate change place increased
stress on communities around the world and intensify the
likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to a significant population of
Marshall Islanders, whose homeland was the site of sixty-seven
atmospheric nuclear weapons tests during the Cold War, and who
have not been adequately compensated for the catastrophic
environmental and health consequences of such horrific testing;
and

WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of more than
$1,000,000,000,000 to enhance the United States' nuclear arsenal
will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a
global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure
the well-being of the American people and people all over the
world; and

WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march toward
nuclear war: in July 2017, one hundred twenty-two nations
called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting
the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that this body
endorses and adopts the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons to support the United Nations sustainable goal 16 for
peace, justice, and strong intuitions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal leaders and the nation
are urged to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of the
United States' national security policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body calls upon federal
leaders and the nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent
nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons
first; ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to
launch a nuclear attack; taking United States nuclear weapons
off hair-trigger alert; canceling the plan to replace its entire
arsenal with enhanced weapons; and actively pursuing a
verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate
their nuclear arsenals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority
Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the
United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of
Representatives, Secretary-General of the United Nations, United
Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, members of Hawaii's
congressional delegation, Governor of the State of Hawaii, and
each mayor of the several counties.