

MAR - 6 2020

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

ENDORISING 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.

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

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

8  
9           WHEREAS, since the height of the Cold War, the United  
10 States and Russia have dismantled more than fifty thousand  
11 nuclear warheads, but approximately thirteen thousand eight  
12 hundred of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable  
13 risk to human survival; and

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

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

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

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32           WHEREAS, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of  
33 millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental



1 damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping  
2 temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last  
3 ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human  
4 race would starve and could lead to human extinction as a  
5 species; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, despite assurances that these arsenals exist  
8 solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been  
9 many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use  
10 these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, nuclear weapons do not possess some magical  
14 quality that prevents their use; and

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

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

24  
25 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to a significant population of  
26 Marshall Islanders, whose homeland was the site of sixty-seven  
27 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests during the Cold War, and who  
28 have not been adequately compensated for the catastrophic  
29 environmental and health consequences of such horrific testing;  
30 and

31  
32 WHEREAS, the planned expenditure of more than  
33 \$1,000,000,000,000 to enhance the United States' nuclear arsenal  
34 will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a  
35 global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure  
36 the well-being of the American people and people all over the  
37 world; and

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39 WHEREAS, there is an alternative to this march toward  
40 nuclear war: in July 2017, one hundred twenty-two nations  
41 called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting



# S.R. NO. 161


1 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now,  
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that this body  
6 endorses and adopts the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
7 Weapons to support the United Nations sustainable goal 16 for  
8 peace, justice, and strong intuitions; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal leaders and the nation  
11 are urged to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
12 Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of the  
13 United States' national security policy; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body calls upon federal  
16 leaders and the nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent  
17 nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons  
18 first; ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to  
19 launch a nuclear attack; taking United States nuclear weapons  
20 off hair-trigger alert; canceling the plan to replace its entire  
21 arsenal with enhanced weapons; and actively pursuing a  
22 verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate  
23 their nuclear arsenals; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
27 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority  
28 Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the  
29 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
30 Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of  
31 Representatives, Secretary-General of the United Nations, United  
32 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, members of Hawaii's  
33 congressional delegation, Governor of the State of Hawaii, and  
34 each mayor of the several counties.  
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OFFERED BY:   
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