

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO INTRODUCE
AND CONSIDER DURING THE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022, A BILL
ASSESSING A CARBON TAX ON FOSSIL FUELS AND RETURNING THE
TAX REVENUES TO HAWAII HOUSEHOLDS IN EQUAL SHARES.

1 WHEREAS, global climate change is accelerating faster than
2 predicted and human-induced warming has led global temperatures
3 to rise an average of at least one degree Celsius above pre-
4 industrial (1850-1900) levels; and
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6 WHEREAS, further temperature increases would lead to
7 widespread drought, crop failures, floods, wildfires, energy
8 blackouts, infrastructure breakdowns, supply chain breakdowns,
9 and infectious disease outbreaks that would be devastating and
10 irreversible; and
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12 WHEREAS, the primary cause of global warming is human
13 activity that releases carbon into the atmosphere, most
14 significantly the burning of fossil fuels to drive cars,
15 generate electricity, and operate homes and businesses; and
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17 WHEREAS, events and decisions in one part of the world can
18 influence the condition of the lives of those at the opposite
19 end of the planet, and therefore, Hawaii must actively
20 participate in controlling climate change by further reducing
21 its consumption of fossil fuels; and
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23 WHEREAS, Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, established
24 the Hawaii State Energy Office in statute and appropriated funds
25 for a study to be conducted on carbon pricing, including whether
26 and how carbon pricing policy shall be implemented in Hawaii;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office recently released a
30 final draft of the study entitled, "Carbon Pricing Assessment
31 for Hawai'i Economic and Greenhouse Gas Impacts" (Hawaii Carbon



1 Pricing Study), which provides that assessing a carbon tax on
2 fossil fuels and returning the tax revenues (except revenues
3 from taxation on aviation fuel) to households in equal shares
4 would be a progressive policy that would have the net benefit of
5 substantially reducing the consumption of fossil fuels while
6 benefitting households in lower-income brackets; and
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8 WHEREAS, during Regular Session of 2021, the Legislature
9 introduced and considered multiple bills that proposed to assess
10 tax on fossil fuels (carbon tax bills), however, ceased further
11 deliberations due to concerns that such tax could be regressive
12 and disproportionately harm lower-income households; and
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14 WHEREAS, the issuance of the Hawaii Carbon Pricing Study,
15 which negates the Legislature's concerns, was too late for its
16 findings to be considered by the Legislature in conjunction with
17 the carbon tax bills during the Regular Session of 2021; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that this body is requested
23 to introduce and consider during the Regular Session of 2022, a
24 bill that assesses a carbon tax on fossil fuels and returns the
25 tax revenues (except revenues from taxation on aviation fuel) to
26 Hawaii's households in equal shares, as described in the Hawaii
27 Carbon Pricing Study; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
30 is requested to distribute the Hawaii Carbon Pricing Study to
31 all members of this body no later than twenty days prior to the
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of
36 Hawaii's congressional delegation, Chief Energy Officer, Mayor
37 of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of
38 Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of
39



S.C.R. NO. 147

1 Maui, and Chairpersons of the Honolulu City Council, Hawaii
2 County Council, Kauai County Council, and Maui County Council.

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OFFERED BY:

R. O. O. J.
by request

