

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS TREE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF  
HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, trees have been identified as an important tool to  
2 combat global climate change, reduce society's carbon footprint,  
3 and help communities become healthier; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, trees, commonly described as the lungs of the  
6 Earth, contribute to the environment by cleaning the air,  
7 removing odors and pollutant gases, filtering particulates, and  
8 removing and storing carbon while releasing oxygen back into the  
9 air; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, trees cool heat-absorbing streets and buildings up  
12 to ten degrees Fahrenheit by releasing water vapor into the air  
13 through their leaves, which encourages residents to enjoy the  
14 outdoors, thereby improving their health, and contributing to  
15 more vital communities; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, studies show that trees in urban areas also  
18 encourage residents to spend more time outdoors under the canopy  
19 of trees where they can immerse themselves in a forest-like  
20 environment and soak in the atmosphere through their senses to  
21 achieve a feeling of rejuvenation; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, trees reduce UV-B exposure by almost fifty percent  
24 which provides protection to children from exposure to ultra  
25 violet rays on school campuses and playgrounds where they spend  
26 hours outdoors; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, well-documented studies confirm the positive  
29 effects of trees on people's health and productivity, some of  
30 which include faster recovery times from surgery, lower blood  
31 pressure levels, higher performance and productivity for those  
32 with views of trees outside of their offices, and higher test  
33 scores and graduation rates for students with trees outside



1 their school windows, as trees have been found to aid in  
2 concentration by reducing mental fatigue; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, trees in our island state are a crucial part of  
5 sustainable living and agricultural economy through the  
6 harvesting of agricultural products such as fruit and wood,  
7 which helps create green jobs for our residents and greater  
8 opportunities for small businesses; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, in our tourism-based economy, trees and  
11 landscaping contribute to the beauty of our urban areas and  
12 create a welcoming environment that attracts tourists, thereby  
13 increasing the flow of business to those areas; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
16 reported that street trees increase property values and that  
17 planting large trees along streets, sidewalks, and parking lots  
18 also help absorb heat, energy, and dust; mask concrete walls and  
19 unsightly views; muffle sounds from freeways; create an eye-  
20 soothing canopy of green; and foster civic pride within  
21 neighborhoods; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, state and community organizations have endeavored  
24 to foster knowledge and awareness of trees, and collectively  
25 have declared that "trees literally hold our island state  
26 together, helping define our island sense of place, that special  
27 connection between our diverse cultures and the environment, the  
28 land and its people"; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Camilo Mora of Mora Lab of the  
31 Geography and Environment Department at the University of Hawaii  
32 who heads the Carbon Neutrality Project, Arbor Day is but one  
33 day to help raise awareness of trees and designating the entire  
34 month of April as Tree Awareness Month would raise greater  
35 awareness and adequately recognize the multitude of benefits and  
36 importance trees have, particularly in an island state that  
37 depends heavily upon sustainability and tourism; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the public should be encouraged to learn more  
40 about the value of trees and designating April as Tree Awareness  
41 Month would be an appropriate way to honor trees while also



1 providing community building and educational and economic  
2 opportunities through planned events; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that April shall be  
7 designated as Tree Awareness Month in the State of Hawaii; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
11 Chairperson of Board of Land and Natural Resources, and mayors  
12 of all counties.

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14  
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OFFERED BY: *M. N. W.*

**By Request**

