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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  
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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  
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11           WHEREAS, trees cool heat-absorbing streets and buildings by  
12 up to ten degrees Fahrenheit by releasing water vapor into the  
13 air through their leaves, which encourages residents to enjoy  
14 the outdoors, thereby improving their health, and contributes to  
15 more vital communities; and  
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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  
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23           WHEREAS, trees reduce UV-B exposure by almost fifty percent  
24 and provide protection to children from exposure to ultraviolet  
25 rays on school campuses and playgrounds where they spend hours  
26 outdoors; and  
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28           WHEREAS, well-documented studies confirm the positive  
29 effects of trees on people's health and productivity, such as  
30 faster recovery times from surgery, lower blood pressure levels,  
31 higher performance and productivity for those with views of  
32 trees outside of their offices, and higher test scores and



1 graduation rates for students with trees outside their school  
2 windows, as trees have been found to aid in concentration by  
3 reducing mental fatigue; and  
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5 WHEREAS, trees in our island state are a crucial part of  
6 sustainable living and agricultural economy and harvesting  
7 agricultural products, such as fruit and wood, helps create  
8 green jobs for our residents and greater opportunities for small  
9 businesses; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in our tourism-based economy, trees and  
12 landscaping contribute to the beauty of our urban areas and  
13 create a welcoming environment that attracts tourists, thereby  
14 increasing the flow of business to those areas; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
17 reported that street trees increase property values and that  
18 planting large trees along streets, sidewalks, and parking lots  
19 also help absorb heat, energy, and dust; mask concrete walls and  
20 unsightly views; muffle sounds from freeways; create an eye-  
21 soothing canopy of green; and foster civic pride within  
22 neighborhoods; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, state and community organizations have endeavored  
25 to foster knowledge and awareness of trees, and collectively  
26 have declared that "trees literally hold our island state  
27 together, helping define our island sense of place, that special  
28 connection between our diverse cultures and the environment, the  
29 land and its people"; and  
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31 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Camilo Mora of Mora Lab of the  
32 Geography and Environment Department at the University of Hawaii  
33 who heads the Carbon Neutrality Project, Arbor Day is but one  
34 day to help raise awareness of trees and that designating the  
35 entire month of April as Tree Awareness Month would raise  
36 greater awareness and adequately recognize the multitude of  
37 benefits and importance trees have, particularly in an island  
38 state that depends heavily upon sustainability and tourism; and  
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40 WHEREAS, the public should be encouraged to learn more  
41 about the value of trees and designating April as Tree Awareness  
42 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 be designated as  
7 Tree Awareness Month in the State of Hawaii; and

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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.

