
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING AN ECONOMIC TRANSITION THAT COMBATS CLIMATE CHANGE
AND INCORPORATES CIRCULAR ECONOMY GOALS ROOTED IN ALOHA
AINA PRINCIPLES.

1 WHEREAS, the planet will reach a crucial threshold of
2 climate change as early as 2030, and rising global temperatures
3 threaten biodiversity in every ecosystem and cause widespread
4 effects, including sea level rise; and

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6 WHEREAS, climate change is an emergency that requires
7 changes in Hawai'i's energy, agriculture, mobility, water,
8 construction, industrial sectors, and development infrastructure
9 to promote the health and well-being of the 'āina and kānaka; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and
12 Adaptation Commission reports that a climate-ready Hawai'i looks
13 to Hawai'i's ahupua'a concept, or the Hawaiian tenure system,
14 because of the effective management of watersheds and
15 agricultural lands, the protection of environmental and
16 community health, and connecting communities with kuleana or
17 responsibility to land and ocean environments; and

18
19 WHEREAS, a circular economy models the transition of
20 economic activities to be regenerative, equitable, resource
21 efficient, and sustainable, yet still competitive, by closing
22 loops within economic models; and

23
24 WHEREAS, a circular economy focuses on the sustainable
25 management of resources, specifically designing out waste and
26 pollution, maintaining the value of existing products and
27 materials, and regenerating natural systems; and

28
29 WHEREAS, a circular economy changes the way we produce,
30 assemble, sell, and use products and resources to minimize waste



1 and reduce our environmental impact, and also values resource
2 productivity, supports innovative solutions for resource
3 efficiency, creates new job opportunities, and fosters behavior
4 change through education and engagement; and
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6 WHEREAS, the adoption of circular economy principals is
7 gaining momentum among governments, businesses, and non-profit
8 organizations in places such as Australia, China, Denmark, and
9 Germany, and most notably, the European Commission adopted a new
10 Circular Economy Action Plan in March 2020; and
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12 WHEREAS, there has been a massive growth in innovative,
13 market-based technology solutions, and business models that can
14 support Hawai'i's transition toward a circular economy; and
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16 WHEREAS, a transition toward a circular economy will help
17 address climate change and provide long-term economic, social,
18 and environmental benefits for Hawai'i; and
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20 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence in demand for Hawai'i to
21 reshape its economy to eliminate the overdependence on
22 extractive industries; and
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24 WHEREAS, the adoption of a circular economy in Hawai'i would
25 model traditional Hawaiian values, including the core value of
26 aloha 'āina; and
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28 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina represents a deep and abiding love for
29 Hawai'i's communities and natural environment, while placing 'ike
30 kūpuna, or native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge, as the
31 foundation upon which collective action is determined to achieve
32 pono, or balanced management of our resources and community
33 health; and
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35 WHEREAS, aloha 'āina promotes an abundant economic system
36 that establishes inherently circular processes and structures
37 such as lo'i kalo and loko i'a, which continue to be utilized by
38 Hawaiian communities today; and
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40 WHEREAS, a statewide survey found that Hawai'i residents
41 support growing green economic industries such as food



1 production, forestry, and natural resource management, and
2 express community interest in economic transition toward more
3 sustainable initiatives; and
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5 WHEREAS, over two thousand seven hundred individuals,
6 businesses, and organizations have expressed their support and
7 commitment for the State to adopt aloha 'āina principles through
8 the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration; and
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10 WHEREAS, the principles of a circular economy would also
11 help advance multiple initiatives, including those created by
12 the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission,
13 Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce, Hawai'i Clean Energy
14 Initiative, Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, and Aloha+
15 Challenge; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is a leader in climate change and renewable
18 energy goals, and has the potential to model an economy rooted
19 in centuries of island-based values, such as sustainable
20 practices, environmental health, and community well-being; and
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22 WHEREAS, with the adoption of circular economy goals that
23 are practiced internationally in partnership with aloha 'āina
24 principles, Hawai'i is poised to become a global leader in the
25 transition toward a circular economy grounded in indigenous
26 values; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that in pursuance of the
31 circular economy principles, all state agencies are requested to
32 convene and participate in the Hawai'i Circular Economy Task
33 Force that supports Hawaii's transition toward a circular
34 economy by 2035; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recommendations made by the
37 task force achieve the following objectives:
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- 39 (1) Consideration of circular economy values in decision-
40 making in all economic transition efforts across
41 government operations, including service delivery,



1 infrastructure, purchasing decisions, and regulatory
2 frameworks;

3
4 (2) Incorporation of circular economy principles in future
5 policy and regulatory actions;

6
7 (3) Restoration of 'āina and communities in a manner that
8 elevates local self-sufficiency;

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10 (4) Supporting efficient processing and reduction of waste
11 streams across economic sectors to produce
12 regenerative impacts on Hawai'i's 'āina and resources;
13 and

14
15 (5) Consideration of utilizing the 'Āina Aloha Economic
16 Futures Assessment Tool for decision-making and
17 allocations of resources unless inappropriate; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
20 individuals from additional organizations or agencies to
21 participate in the task force; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
24 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
25 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
26 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
27 2022; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;
31 Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Attorney
32 General; Director of Finance; Director of Business, Economic
33 Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and Consumer
34 Affairs; Adjutant General; Chairperson of the Board of
35 Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the
36 Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director of Health; Director of Human
37 Resources Development; Director of Human Services; Director of
38 Labor and Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Land
39 and Natural Resources; Director of Public Safety; Director of
40 Taxation; Director of Transportation; President of the
41 University of Hawai'i System; Administrator of the State
42 Procurement Office; State Sustainability Coordinator; Mayor of



1 the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the County of Maui;
2 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Mayor of the County of Kaua'i;
3 Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; Chairperson of the
4 Maui County Council; Chairperson of the Hawai'i County Council;
5 Chairperson of the Kaua'i County Council, who in turn is
6 requested to provide a copy to each neighborhood board
7 chairperson in their respective county; Executive Secretary of
8 the Neighborhood Commission Office of the City and County of
9 Honolulu; and the principal collaborative authors of the 'Āina
10 Aloha Economic Futures Declaration.

