
SENATE 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
33 graduation rates for students with trees outside their school



1 windows, as trees have been found to aid in concentration by
2 reducing mental fatigue; and
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4 WHEREAS, trees in our island state are a crucial part of
5 sustainable living and agricultural economy and harvesting
6 agricultural products, such as fruit and wood, helps create
7 green jobs for our residents and greater opportunities for small
8 businesses; and
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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
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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
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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
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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 that designating the
34 entire month of April as Tree Awareness Month would raise
35 greater awareness and adequately recognize the multitude of
36 benefits and importance trees have, particularly in an island
37 state that 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,
6 that April be designated as Tree Awareness Month in the State of
7 Hawaii; and

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

