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# SENATE RESOLUTION

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE  
COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND  
EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

1           WHEREAS, global warming has now raised the average global  
2 air temperature about one degree Celsius, and scientists have  
3 documented that this extra heat is already having a dramatic  
4 impact on the environment, as demonstrated through larger and  
5 stronger hurricanes, increased drought and flooding, shifting  
6 rain patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more  
7 acidic ocean, and damaged ecosystems, both marine and  
8 terrestrial, across the planet; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent  
11 need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement,  
12 agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above  
13 pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the  
14 temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and  
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16           WHEREAS, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists  
17 published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse  
18 gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's  
19 ecosystems to their breaking point"; and  
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21           WHEREAS, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty-six  
22 countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming  
23 that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will  
24 now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve  
25 our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas  
28 emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate  
29 in the next decade and reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 - ten  
30 years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel  
31 on Climate Change (IPCC), and two degrees Celsius by 2045; and  
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1 WHEREAS, based upon the scientific information and  
 2 expertise available, Hawaii remains particularly vulnerable to  
 3 the dangers of disaster occurrences as a result of the effects  
 4 of global warming, thereby endangering the health, safety, and  
 5 welfare of the people, warranting preemptive and protective  
 6 action; and

7  
 8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution adopts the public  
 9 trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of  
 10 each person to a clean and healthful environment; and

11  
 12 WHEREAS, as of January 26, 2021, 1,864 jurisdictions in  
 13 thirty-three countries have already declared a climate  
 14 emergency; now, therefore,

15  
 16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
 17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
 18 that this body acknowledges that an existential climate  
 19 emergency threatens humanity and the natural world, declares a  
 20 climate emergency, and requests statewide collaboration toward  
 21 an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort  
 22 to restore a safe climate; and

23  
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that entities statewide are  
 25 requested to pursue these climate mitigation and adaptation  
 26 efforts and mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:

- 27  
 28 (1) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a  
 29 decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean  
 30 energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a  
 31 climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the  
 32 climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and  
 33 regulatory assistance from state authorities, will  
 34 transform the economy at emergency speed to zero  
 35 emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth  
 36 by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees  
 37 Celsius;
- 38  
 39 (2) A prohibition against any further public or private  
 40 investment or subsidies in projects that will make the  
 41 climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and  
 42 tree-burning projects, and redirecting and channeling



1 subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects  
2 and workforce retraining;

3  
4 (3) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and  
5 infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric  
6 vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the  
7 State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation;  
8 afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate-  
9 friendly land use; and

10  
11 (4) Organization and tracking of a time-phased  
12 implementation plan that assigns state government  
13 agencies' responsibilities and timetables;  
14 establishment of task dependencies between departments  
15 with a priority to plan and coordinate, at a statewide  
16 level, all climate and resilience responses, including  
17 emergency mitigation of climate change effects,  
18 resilience, adaptation, engagement, education,  
19 advocacy, and research and development programs, all  
20 of which begin with a robust climate emergency public  
21 education and stakeholder outreach process; and  
22 requirements of all departmental reports that utilize  
23 a lifecycle greenhouse gas analysis to include a  
24 climate impacts section, which will provide meaningful  
25 information on how proposed actions will impact  
26 greenhouse gas reduction efforts; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public and private entities are  
29 urged to commit to statewide action that is rooted in equity,  
30 self-determination, culture, tradition, and the belief that  
31 people locally and around the world have the right to clean,  
32 healthy, and adequate air, water, land, food, education, and  
33 shelter; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure  
36 constitutes a declaration of an emergency for purposes of any  
37 act authorizing the exercise of any special or extraordinary  
38 power during the period of a state emergency or other type of  
39 declared emergency; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;



- 1 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director
- 2 of the Office of Planning; and mayors of the City and County of
- 3 Honolulu and counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

