HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 53

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO AGREE TO AN ECONOMY-WIDE REDUCTION IN ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND TO COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO A BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY THAT WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT AND RAPID GLOBAL REDUCTION IN ATMOSPHERIC GREENHOUSE GAS CONCENTRATION.

1 WHEREAS, the White House is convening a Major Economies 2 Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change with seventeen 3 invited countries at the Center for Cultural and Technical 4 Interchange Between East and West, Inc. (East-West Center) on 5 the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa on January 30 6 and 31, 2008, to discuss potential international agreements on 7 global climate change; and

9 WHEREAS, for more than half a century, researchers have 10 used atmospheric samples taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on 11 the island of Hawaii to track a steady annual increase in the 12 concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and have 13 concluded that concentrations are now higher than they have been 14 in the past eight hundred thousand years; and

16 WHEREAS, scientific consensus links the anthropogenic 17 increase in greenhouse gases to global climate change; and 18

WHEREAS, the Fourth Assessment Report of the 19 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that global 20 emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next ten to 21 fifteen years and be reduced to levels well below half those in 22 23 2000 by the middle of this century in order to stabilize greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest 24 levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 25 to date in its scenarios; and 26

28 WHEREAS, achieving the lowest levels assessed by the29 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date and its



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1 corresponding potential damage limitation would require developed countries as a group to reduce emissions in a range of 2 twenty-five to forty per cent below 1990 levels by 2020; and 3 4 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and 5 the signatory nations of the United Nations Framework Convention 6 on Climate Change have recognized the special dangers of climate 7 change to island states, territories, and nations; and 8 9 WHEREAS, global climate change is causing rapid melting of 10 ice at both the north and south polar regions, which, in 11 conjunction with thermal expansion due to warmer water 12 temperatures, is leading to a rapid rise in sea level; and 13 14 WHEREAS, University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated 15 that a one meter rise in sea level would inundate much of 16 Hawaii's coastline, including the world renowned Waikiki resort 17 area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the 18 majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many 19 20 historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu; 21 and 22 23 24 WHEREAS, global climate change also threatens Hawaii with 25 stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting micro-climates, 26 27 increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion into its aquifers; and 28 29 30 WHEREAS, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations foster greater carbon dioxide uptake by the 31 world's oceans, leading to ocean acidification and the resultant 32 33 decreases in reef health and decreases in survival of ocean life that rely on calcium carbonate shells; and 34 35 WHEREAS, Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its 36 contribution to global climate change by adopting progressive 37 energy policies that promote the use of clean energy 38 technologies such as wind, solar, wave, and biomass energy; and 39 40

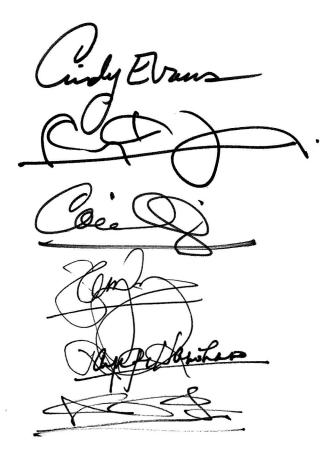


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WHEREAS, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, placed a 1 2 binding statewide cap on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, by requiring Hawaii to reduce its non-aviation greenhouse gas 3 emissions to their 1990 levels before 2020; now, therefore, 4 5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular 7 Session of 2008, that in recognition of Hawaii's overwhelming 8 vulnerability to global climate change, the President of the 9 United States is urged to use the January 30 and 31, 2008, Major 10 Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change, which 11 is being hosted in Hawaii, to commit to an economy-wide 12 reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and 13 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United 15 States is urged to consent to binding and quantified commitments 16 for the United States under the United Nations Framework 17 Convention on Climate Change that would result in the rapid 18 stabilization and decrease in atmospheric greenhouse gas 19 concentrations; and 20 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 22 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, 23 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the 24 United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's 25 congressional delegation, and the Secretariat of the United 26 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 🌈 27 28 29 30 Yernur OFFERED mere Co HR

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