REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE WORLDWIDE GREENHOUSE EFFECT ON HAWAII'S COASTAL DEVELOPMENTS.

WHEREAS, the "greenhouse effect", the continued burning of fossil fuels worldwide and the resultant buildup of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere which retains more heat in the atmosphere, has long been of concern to scientists; and

WHEREAS, most scientific estimates concur that an average global warming of 2 to 3 degrees Celsius will accompany an atmospheric doubling of the current levels of carbon dioxide and this could occur as early as 2010; and

WHEREAS, scientists also predict that the warming in the northern polar areas may be as high as 6 to 10 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, a temperature change of such magnitude in such a short time period will dramatically affect rainfall patterns, temperature, growing seasons, winds, storm frequencies, ocean currents, and rates of photosynthesis which will have major implications not only for world agriculture and ocean resources, but may also result in a general rise in global sea levels from 15 to 25 feet; and

WHEREAS, while there is much disagreement on the potential for and extent of a general rise in sea levels, any significant rise in sea levels would affect much of the State of Hawaii and the long-range implications of this phenomenon must be studied in order to avoid adverse impacts to the greatest degree possible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twelfth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1984, that the Department of Planning and Economic Development Coastal Zone Management Program and the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics conduct a study on the possible effects of the greenhouse effect on Hawaii's sea levels, the implications for coastal developments, and recommended alternatives for action to minimize the adverse effects on Hawaii's population; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coastal Zone Management Program report findings and recommendations to the Legislature thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 1985; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Planning and Economic Development and the Director of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.

OFFERED BY:

APR 09 1984