

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 157

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the effects of global warming-induced climate disruption on the Pacific nations that are allies of the United States and the resulting threat to the global interests of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the effects of global warming-induced climate disruption on the Pacific nations that are allies of the United States and the resulting threat to the global interests of the United States.

Whereas the world's leading climate experts who comprise the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (hereafter in this preamble referred to as the "IPCC") have reported that "the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate";

Whereas the IPCC has concluded that the effects of global climatic disruption due to increased greenhouse gas emissions could result in (1) a global temperature increase of 1.8 to 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100; (2) a

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rise in sea level of 6 inches to 3 feet by the year 2100; (3) extreme weather events due to a more vigorous hydrological cycle, such as increased flooding in some areas and more severe droughts in others; (4) saltwater intrusion into freshwater supplies; and (5) the spread of infectious diseases, including malaria and dengue fever;

Whereas the IPCC estimates that today's carbon emissions will remain in our atmosphere for a century or more;

Whereas more than 2,600 scientists recently signed the Scientists' Statement on Global Climatic Disruption calling on the United States, as the world leader in greenhouse gas emissions, to provide leadership this December in Kyoto, Japan, where an international protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which the United States is party, is scheduled to be signed;

Whereas relations between the United States and Pacific island nations historically have been marked by a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation on a wide range of issues;

Whereas Pacific island nations and the United States share a commitment to world peace, and the Pacific islands have traditionally been supportive of major United States initiatives, including United States positions at the United Nations;

Whereas at the Seventh Economic Summit of Smaller Island States (SIS), held September 17, 1997, in the Cook Islands, a statement was issued to reaffirm, recognize, and endorse the Second Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of 1996;

Whereas the United States is a Forum Dialogue Partner in the South Pacific Forum and is a participant or contributor to other regional organizations, including the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the South Pacific Commission, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the El Nino research in conjunction with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the Joint Commercial Commission (JCC), the U.S. Studies Country Program (USSCP), in connection with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Program, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone (SPNFZ) Treaty, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank;

Whereas the bonds of cooperation are established between the United States and Pacific island nations either through independent territorial, commonwealth, or free association relationships;

Whereas certain Pacific island nations, in alliance with the United States, have historically provided for an important U.S. regional strategic presence and have continued to provide such vital assistance in recent years;

Whereas the world is becoming more politically and socially volatile, with growing security threats in proximity to the Pacific region and in other potentially hostile global theaters;

Whereas Pacific island nations, with many inhabited atolls, lie only a few feet above sea level and are faced with the constant threat of flooding and the possible loss of their nations due to a rise in sea level induced by global warming;

Whereas Pacific island nations such as Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Niue, Tonga, the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia are already experiencing the effects of an accelerated sea level rise, such as salinization of soil and water, erosion, and rising tides;

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences has determined that the efficiency of nearly every United States energy use can be improved and that the United States could reduce its greenhouse gas emissions significantly at low cost or potential savings; and

Whereas research and development into advanced energy saving technologies would position the United States as the leading exporter of these technologies, reduce the dependency of the United States on foreign oil, and help balance the trade deficit: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3            (1) the United States, with its advanced tech-  
4            nologies and comprehensive studies on global climate  
5            conditions, should be committed to the proposition  
6            that global warming is a very serious international  
7            issue, and the United States take appropriate meas-  
8            ures to consult closely with the nations of the world  
9            to address this serious problem; and

10           (2) the leaders and peoples of Pacific island na-  
11           tions should be commended for their efforts to en-  
12           hance the consciousness and sensitivity of the world

- 1 community by raising the issue of global warming
- 2 and greenhouse gas emissions.

