CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENT HAWAI'I, INC., ON ITS 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE STATE

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i takes great pride in recognizing outstanding accomplishments of organizations that help strengthen our communities and make our island state a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 Patricia Tummons, Marjorie Ziegler, and Andria Benner, three women active in the environmental community, saw that the daily print and broadcast media were not paying sufficient attention to environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, those three women founded Environment Hawai'i with the intention of bringing the skills of investigative environmental journalism to the reading public of Hawai'i by means of a monthly newsletter; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 Teresa Dawson, joined the writing staff and has made significant contributions to the Environment Hawai'i's reporting ever since; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the articles that have appeared in Environment Hawai'i more attention has been paid by public agencies at all levels of government to many significant issues, including: the high rate of deaths of endangered sea turtles from their interactions with longline fisheries; the rights of the public to shoreline access; the use of the pesticide Heptachlor on pineapple fields here long after its use was banned elsewhere; and the conflicts of interest of the state space czar who was shepherding the development of a space launch facility in Ka'u, all leading to positive measures taken to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, by means of its searchable website, Environment Hawai'i has made available to the public, free of charge, nearly all of its articles published since July 1990, thus establishing a vast archive of articles on important environmental issues in the state useful to anyone interested in protecting Hawai'i's precious natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Environment Hawai'i has won awards for its news reporting from many organizations, including the Hawai'i chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Hawai'i Audubon Society, the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and Hawai'i's Thousand Friends; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Thirtieth Hawai'i State Legislature congratulates Environment Hawai'i, Inc., on the occasion of the launch of its thirtieth year of service as a government watchdog, reporter, archivist, and media crusader on behalf of Hawai'i's environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate further extends its best wishes to Environment Hawai'i for continued future success in pursuit of its important mission.