

Proclamation of Commitment to 100% Renewable Ground Transportation by 2045

WHEREAS, as Mayor of the County of Hawai‘i, my administration joined the 385-member Climate Mayors network and 196 countries to uphold the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, hold global warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy that benefits our people’s security, prosperity, and health; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle‘a recently circled the globe during its Mālama Honua Voyage and returned home with a call to action for Hawai‘i and the world to become more self-reliant and resilient in the face of climate change; and

WHEREAS, our islands were originally discovered and populated over a thousand years ago by brilliant and courageous Polynesian navigators who utilized the stars to travel thousands of miles harnessing the renewable power of the wind and the ocean; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i County has already joined the three other counties to endorse the Aloha + Challenge, a statewide commitment with six ambitious goals to be achieved by 2030 that advances climate resilience and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i Clean Energy Initiative is celebrating a decade of success as it set a bold yet achievable goal, brought parties together to transition away from fossil fuels, and ultimately resulted in a law requiring that 100 percent of Hawai‘i’s electricity be generated by renewable sources by 2045—the nation’s first such benchmark; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i has established itself as a testbed for clean energy innovation in emerging technologies, programs, and policies, which has had a positive impact on our economy and resulted in keeping \$300 million in the islands every year instead of paying for foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity generation have been falling in Hawai‘i due to the Hawai‘i Clean Energy Initiative, while emissions from ground transportation in Hawai‘i have actually increased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, cars and trucks in Hawai‘i consume over 500 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually, draining nearly \$2 billion annually from our local economy and producing 4.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gas pollution that leads directly to increased climate change; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i’s dependence on imported fossil fuel directly contributes to our high cost of living, and national studies have shown that operating and maintaining an

electric vehicle costs about one-third less than operating a comparable fossil-fuel powered vehicle; and

WHEREAS, our commitment to a 100 percent clean energy future is unwavering but the path each island may take to the destination will vary and involve our communities to find the right balance of transport modes, renewable fuels, and electrification to meet our local needs and support local jobs; and

WHEREAS, energy storage technologies developed for hydrogen and electric vehicles can enable a more reliable and resilient renewable electricity grid and can also be employed to make use of variable renewable energy as it's produced; and

WHEREAS, our ground transportation system must transform towards biking, walking, transit, renewable fuel, and electric vehicles if we are to succeed in meeting our goals under Hawai'i state law and the Paris Climate Agreement, while also protecting our local economy; and

WHEREAS, major national governments, cities and companies across the globe have now set targets to phase out fossil fuel-burning cars and trucks and make the switch to renewable fuels, hydrogen, and electric vehicles that result in cleaner air, less noise, energy security, and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY KIM, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do commit to the next phase of Hawai'i's clean energy future.

In joining the Mayors of all four Hawai'i counties, we pledge to transform Hawai'i's ground transportation to 100 percent renewable fuel sources by ensuring that all public and private ground transportation is fueled by renewable energy by 2045.

In addition, the County of Hawai'i pledges to lead by example and establish a goal of a having a 100 percent renewable-powered city fleet by 2035.

Done this 12th day of December, 2017,
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

HARRY KIM