



# ALOHA+ CHALLENGE 2020 BENCHMARK REPORT:

**Hawai'i's Voluntary  
Local Review of Progress  
on the Sustainable  
Development Goals**



# Aloha



**HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH**  
LOCAL2030 HUB

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Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**This year marks the start of the Decade of Action, a critical ten-year window to accelerate solutions to address some of the world's most significant global challenges by 2030.** With the real and present threat of climate change, and against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of social justice movements, progress towards the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals is more critical than ever. As the most isolated population on the planet, Hawai'i faces unique challenges including a dependence on fossil fuel imports and high-cost of living to biodiversity loss, sea-level rise, and increased climate-related severe weather events. COVID-19 further underscores Hawai'i's vulnerability to external disruption, affecting community and economic well-being and exposing systemic inequities. At the same time Hawai'i and other island economies at the frontlines of climate change are taking innovative and bold steps to build community resilience, and are positioned to help the world navigate towards a more sustainable future.

**Hawai'i has a culture of sustainability that guides action today, and is the fiber that binds strong partnerships to keep us moving forward together.**

Government, business and community partners are collaborating to build resilience through the *Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'ōia, A Culture of Sustainability*. Announced in 2014 by the State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Department of State at the United Nations' Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) meeting in Sāmoa, the *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide cross-sector commitment that brings together diverse partners to develop community-based 2030 goals and measurable targets across six priority areas: clean energy transformation; local agriculture; natural resource management; solid waste reduction; green workforce and education; and smart sustainable communities. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is led by the Governor, all four



County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and State Legislature with business and civil society, and builds on forty years of voyaging and movements including Mālama Hawai'i, Hawai'i 2000 and Hawai'i 2050. Notably, work toward the *Aloha+ Challenge* is embraced by multiple administrations – a testament to the community commitment and political leadership that powers this movement. Grounded in a legacy of systems thinking and indigenous wisdom through Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) host culture values and practice to *mālama* (care for and steward), the *Aloha+ Challenge* is Hawai'i's local framework to deliver on the 17 United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted by the international community in 2015. As part of a strategy to support local SDG implementation, the United Nations launched Local2030, a global multi-stakeholder initiative and invited Hawai'i to become one of the world's first Local2030 Hubs to support local leadership in sharing and scaling solutions. Hawai'i's *Aloha+ Challenge* model is already inspiring action in other communities, from Guam to Tasmania, with the Global Island Partnership and Local2030 Islands Network.

**Hawai'i's first statewide Voluntary Local Review covers six-years of data on the Aloha+ Challenge based on metrics that were co-developed by partners statewide across all four counties and used to track progress through an open-data Dashboard.**

The *Aloha+ Dashboard* currently tracks thirty-seven targets and over two-hundred indicators as well as county-level resources for residents to gauge their household's impact on the goals. This serves as Hawai'i's Voluntary Local Review of the SDGs - the first comprehensive statewide review in the nation that includes all counties - and takes stock of Hawai'i's contribution to the global goals. Moreover, the Voluntary Local Review provides 2020 benchmark data that can inform statewide COVID-19 recovery efforts, policies, and action needed in the coming decade.

**The Voluntary Local Review shares collective progress as well as shared challenges that can not be solved by one group, one sector, or one administration, and will require diverse partnerships and innovation.**

Data indicates that Hawai'i is currently on track to meet statewide goals for renewable electricity generation and energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, solid waste diversion from landfills, and implementation of the first interagency biosecurity strategy. Hawai'i is near-target for the protection of native watershed forests, and has seen upward trends in volunteerism, high school and college graduation rates, and 'āina based or sustainability-focused education programs. Several goals need significant improvement to be achieved by 2030 including clean transportation, local food production, freshwater security and marine managed areas, and although data is limited, each has bright spots demonstrating strong successes that can be scaled. Sustainable and regenerative tourism presents an important

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

opportunity for action, as does investment in diversified green jobs, source reduction and circular economy strategies, which will require setting robust targets and metrics. Cost of living remains a major concern for nearly half of Hawai'i households, with the state experiencing some of the highest housing costs in the nation and ranking second highest for homelessness per capita, and near and long-term impacts from COVID-19 still unknown. Socio-economic indicators reveal disparities from health to housing to incarceration disproportionately affecting Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

**Moreover, Hawai'i's 2020 Voluntary Local Review reflects the interconnectivity of the goals, such that the attainment of one goal is contingent on success of the other goals.**

Gaps in data availability, quality and frequency make it difficult to comprehensively measure statewide and county-level progress across each of the targets. Development of new holistic metrics such as the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) can improve tracking of economic, social and environmental conditions. Ongoing community and stakeholder engagement will be critical to achieving Hawai'i's sustainability goals for renewable energy, local food production, affordable housing, and ecosystem health from *mauka* to *makai* (ridge to reef). Access to adequate funding to achieve the goals highlights the importance of public-private partnerships and new innovative finance opportunities, particularly in light of COVID-19's devastating local economic impact and projections for Hawai'i's economic recovery.

**> Hawai'i's Voluntary Local Review will reflect statewide actions and initiatives across the four counties.**



**The strength of Hawai'i's people, communities and partnerships demonstrate the spirit of *laulima* (many hands working together) and contribute to building resilience.**

This is reflected in the numerous bright



spots and successes statewide to achieve the *Aloha+ Challenge* goals from within and across government, the private sector, civil society and at the community level. Approximately 5,000 residents and 100 organizations participated in the annual Volunteer Week Hawai'i last year to clean up beaches and parks, build community gardens, and distribute meals to advance the goals, supporting organizations doing this work year-round. The CEO-led Sustainability Business Forum, representing over 46,000 employees and \$16.7 billion in revenue, is taking steps to increase sustainability within their operations and serve as anchor institutions in the community, committed to environmental, social and governance (ESG) outcomes that will be tracked on the Dashboard. The state has integrated the *Aloha+ Challenge* into strategic plans to guide tourism and education, and is currently updating the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan for action over the next decade. The state and counties have established positions, offices and programs to implement sustainability and climate priorities, including a new statewide sustainability program and chief energy officer created by the State Legislature; City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience established by voter-directed Charter Amendment; and new County of Maui Mayor's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resilience. All four counties are taking bold actions to combat climate change and support community well-being, including with the O'ahu Resilience Strategy, Climate Action Plans, and establishing new household platforms to support action by residents towards the *Aloha+ Challenge*. The full report of the Hawai'i Voluntary Local Review will include examples of bright spots across sectors and geographies that are moving the dial.

**As Hawai'i responds to COVID-19, there is also an opportunity to shape a 'new normal' with green growth recovery strategies.**

Hawai'i Green Growth



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local2030 Hub, the statewide network of public, private and civil society partners that stewards the *Aloha+ Challenge*, was established following the 2008 financial crisis. Hawai'i Green Growth emerged from the Honolulu-hosted 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit as a public-private partnership to set green growth priorities that balanced environmental, community and economic health, building on the legacy of Mālama Hawai'i and international island leadership. Over the past decade, the network has promoted green growth through the *Aloha+ Challenge*, which now provides a framework to 'build back better' with concrete benchmarks measured through the open-data Dashboard and reflected in Hawai'i's first Voluntary Local Review. The Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub will use the 2020 report to inform joint priority-setting and action by the network, as well as a mid-term review of the goals at the halfway point to 2030. However, the success of Hawai'i's goals - and therefore Hawai'i's security and well-being - are also connected to the international community achieving the global goals.

**Islands around the world are among the foremost leaders taking action, adapting to climate change impacts and demonstrating solutions that can be scaled - with an 'island worldview' that can be shared to help shift the global paradigm.** Islands are coming together to inspire each other, learn from each other and join in their collective efforts for global impact. Mirroring Hawai'i's voyaging renaissance, the *Aloha+ Challenge* was inspired by Pacific brothers and sisters with the Micronesia Challenge, as well as the Caribbean Challenge and other Global Island Partnership commitments, now coming full circle to share these solutions with other communities around the world. Hawai'i's beloved Polynesian voyaging canoe, Hōkūle'a, completed a four-year worldwide voyage sharing this message of island values: *Mālama Honua* (Care for the Earth). As Hawai'i works together with the global community to address pressing challenges, our island values can serve as the 'starlight' to chart the course towards a more sustainable and equitable future for Island Earth.



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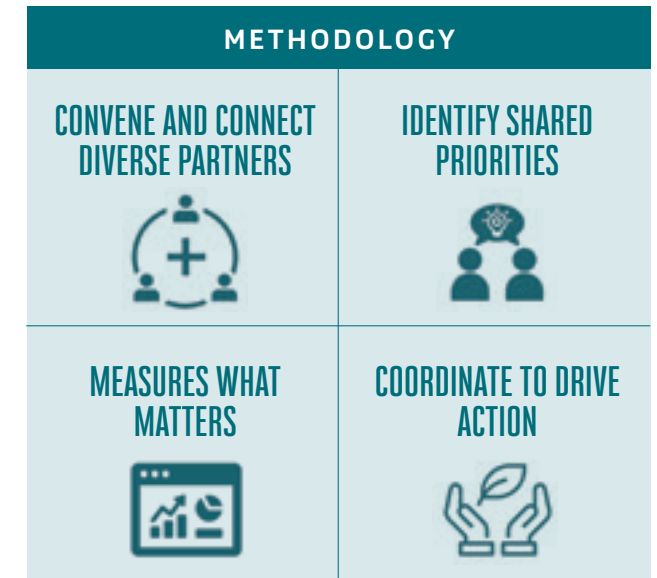
# METHODOLOGY

**This report was produced by the Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub in collaboration with network partners from across government, business and civil society sectors. The purpose of this report is to assess progress to date and provide 2020 benchmark data to inform decision-making, including on economic recovery, through the *Aloha+ Challenge* - Hawai'i's framework to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.**

Hawai'i is the first to present a comprehensive statewide Voluntary Local Review in the United States - which includes all four counties - and joins cities from Los Angeles to New York City, Bristol, Helsinki and others around the world that have reported progress. Voluntary Local Reviews are annual reporting mechanisms to illustrate local action toward achieving the SDGs, and complement the Voluntary National Review process to report national-level progress through inclusive stakeholder engagement, review of goals and targets, and analysis of the data using the common framework of SDGs. The intention to conduct a Hawai'i Voluntary Local Review was announced at the July 2019 US Conference of Mayors hosted in Honolulu, and launched with a statewide stakeholder input session at the Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub annual partnership event followed by consultations with experts from across sectors. Students and citizens contributed to the Voluntary Local Review by participating in Volunteer Week Hawai'i, the state's largest volunteer campaign, which compiled volunteer hours and impact metrics by communities towards the goals.

**The Aloha+ Dashboard** ([www.alohachallenge.hawaii.gov](http://www.alohachallenge.hawaii.gov)) measures progress on the six priority areas identified through the *Aloha+ Challenge*, and tracks Hawai'i's contribution towards all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The open-data platform supports accountability and transparency on the goals, with community-driven metrics to inform statewide and county-level decision making.

As a public private partnership that includes government, business and civil society, the Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub is uniquely positioned to convene Hawai'i's first comprehensive statewide Voluntary Local Review as a Local2030 Hub for the SDGs and through a methodology and process established in 2011. The network's methodology includes convening and connecting partners, identifying what matters to Hawai'i's communities,



measuring what matters, and coordinating policies and actions to drive progress.

The content of this report was informed by the Aloha+ Dashboard, an open-data platform that measures progress on Hawai'i's statewide sustainability goals. Metrics on the Dashboard were co-developed through an initial four-year stakeholder engagement process starting in 2014 facilitated by Hawai'i Green Growth that brought together government, business, academia, philanthropy, civil society and community partners in meetings across all four counties. Guided by measuring what matters to Hawai'i's communities, the Aloha+ Dashboard currently tracks six sustainability goals through thirty-seven targets and over two-hundred and eighty indicators based on available data. Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 continues to convene stakeholders regularly throughout the year through established working groups focused on data, policy and legislation, local-global next generation leadership and a CEO-led Sustainability Business Forum. The Voluntary Local Review is part of the on-going *Aloha+ Challenge* stakeholder engagement process through partner-driven working groups, forums and other convened processes to update the data, identify new metrics, and set priorities for action based on the trends. Hawai'i's local framework and process are aligned with the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) aimed at implementing the SDGs at the country-level, and can be applied to increased stakeholder engagement at the subnational leadership.





Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# METHODOLOGY

FIGURE 1. HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH NETWORK ECOSYSTEM

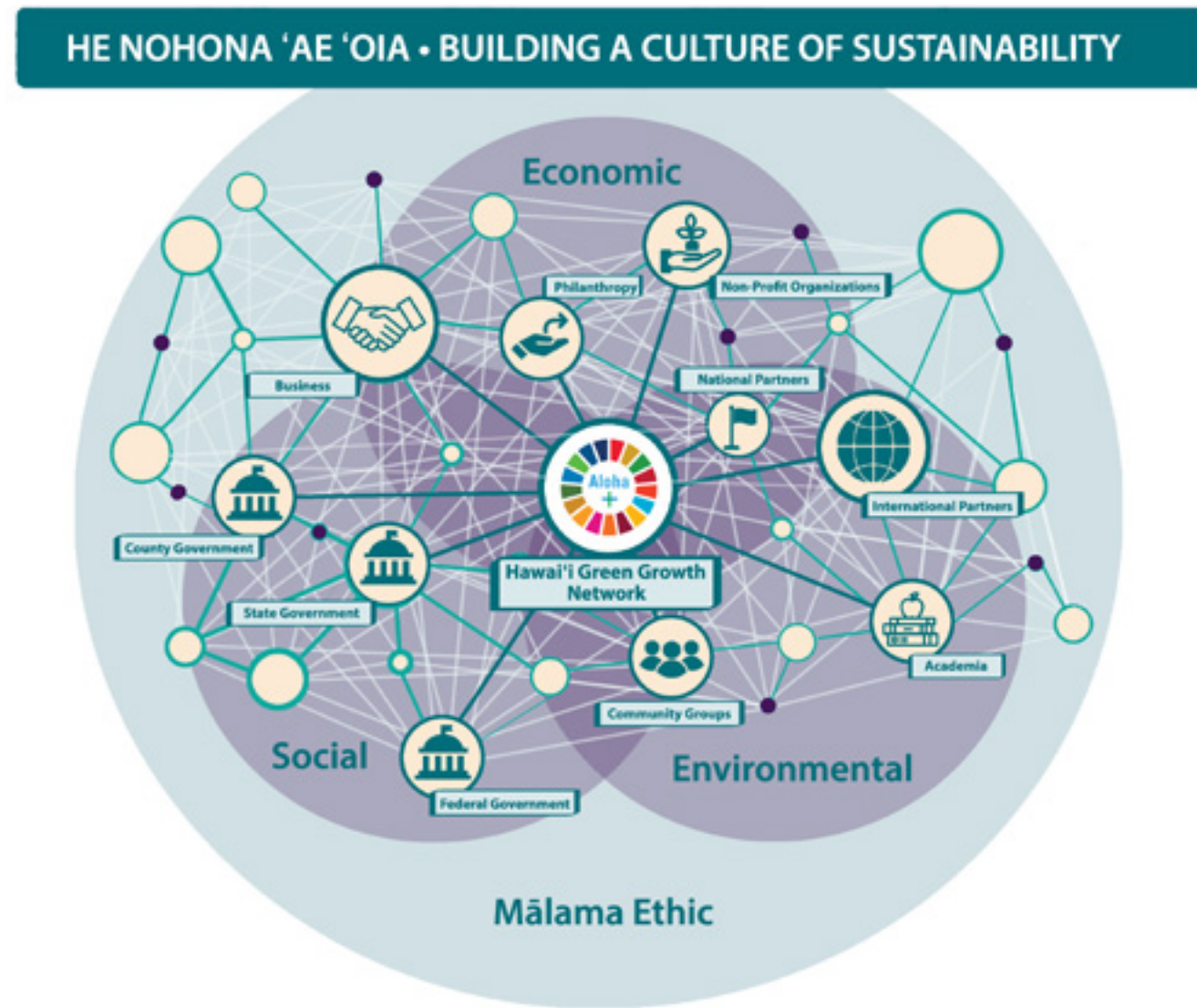


Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# METHODOLOGY

FIGURE 2. NETWORK PROCESS





Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# METHODOLOGY

FIGURE 3. ALOHA+ DASHBOARD AND VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# METHODOLOGY

FIGURE 4. LOCAL2030 ISLANDS NETWORK: PEER TO PEER EXCHANGE AND GLOBAL SCALABILITY

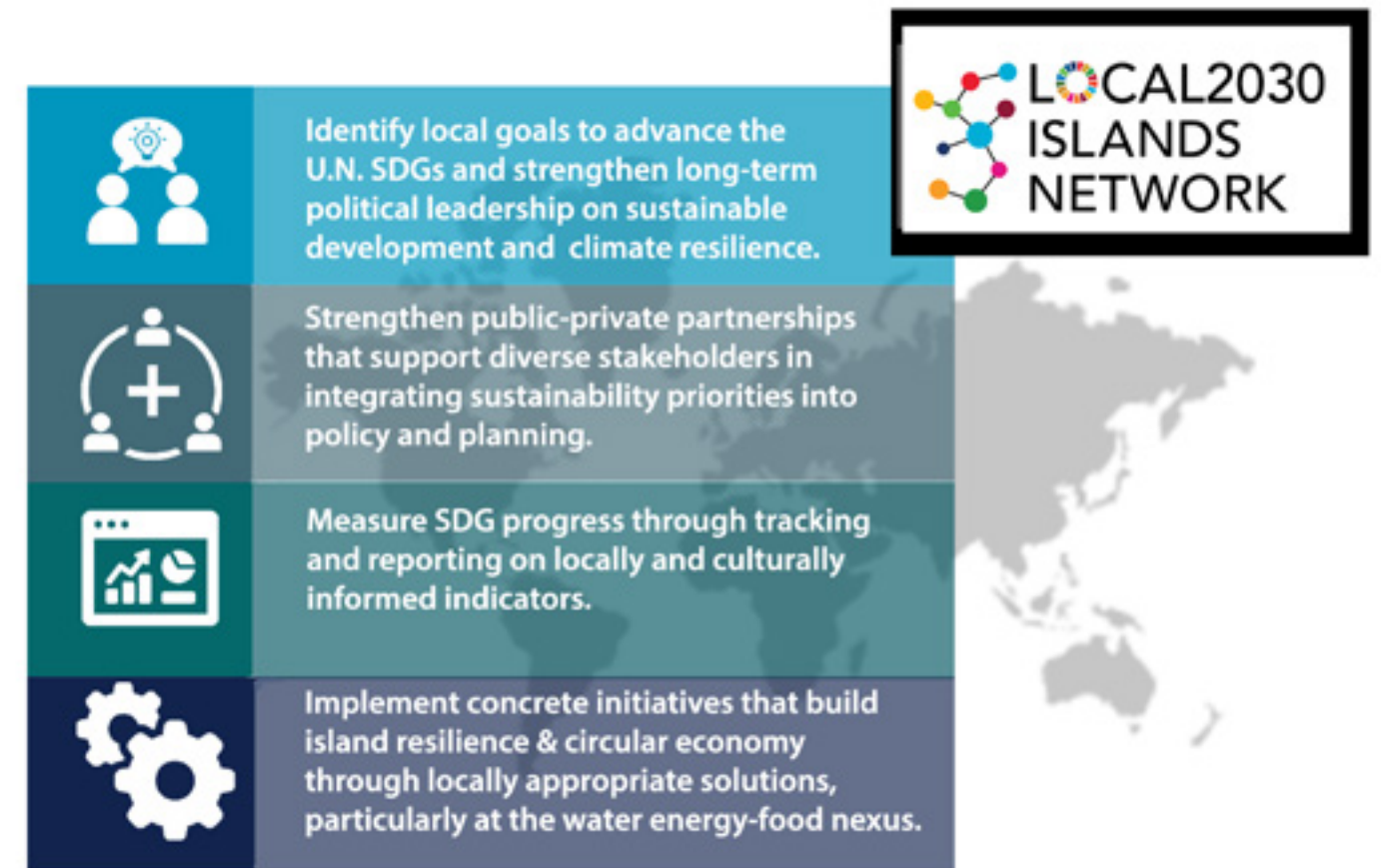




Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# OVERVIEW OF THE GOALS

The Aloha+ Challenge identifies six priority goals and local metrics that are delivering against the global United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



CLEAN ENERGY


# OVERVIEW OF THE GOALS

Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV



WASTE REDUCTION




LOCAL FOOD




SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES




NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT




GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



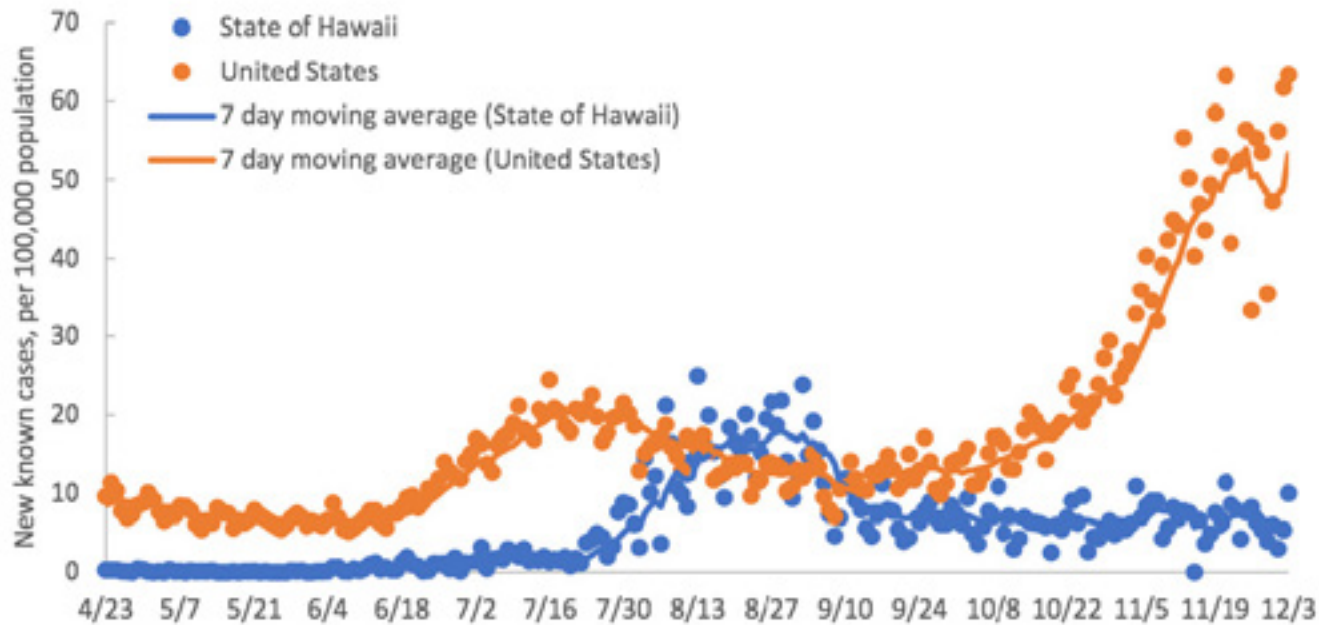

Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND GREEN GROWTH RECOVERY

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions at the scale of a natural disaster, resulting in a public health crisis and a global economic crisis that has led to staggering unemployment impacting numerous local families including the most vulnerable. These disruptions reveal Hawai'i's vulnerability and underscore the need to prepare for a more sustainable future.

Hawai'i became the 16th state in the US with a statewide stay-at-home order, and while this measure and other social distancing rules were not able to prevent deaths, the state experienced a slower spread of COVID-19 on average compared to the entire US on average. The impact from business closures and disruption of the tourism-based economy caused a 42% drop in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and some of the highest levels of unemployment in the country with a peak of 23.6% in April 2020 and subsequent drop to 14.2% in October 2020.

## DAILY NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION



The State Hawai'i COVID-19 Data Portal and central county platforms – One O'ahu, Hawai'i County COVID-19 dashboard, Maui Nui Strong and Kupa'a Kaua'i – provide regular updated information on the crisis, accompanied by stakeholder resources from groups such as the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and the Hawai'i Data Collaborative. These resources and other metrics are compiled on the Aloha+ Dashboard, along with green growth recovery information.

The pandemic revealed Hawai'i's ability to withstand an unprecedented crisis. Government, private sector and civil society partners led local response and relief efforts from food drives to mobilizing support for local businesses. The Chamber of Commerce's One808 Campaign promotes local businesses and

online platforms such as COVID-19: Respond with Aloha and the Kukulu Switchboard safely support community needs, connecting volunteers with on-the-ground service providers and other resource-sharing opportunities.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND GREEN GROWTH RECOVERY

## GREEN GROWTH RECOVERY

The pandemic underscored the importance of cross-sector partnerships and green growth policies that can stimulate the economy and create employment opportunities while supporting community well-being and environmental stewardship. Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge provides a policy roadmap to 'build back better' and increase stability across economic, social and environmental systems and mitigate against future shocks, including climate change.

and investment opportunities. The survey identified 250 green growth projects and 150 education and training programs with the potential to create an estimated 9,300 jobs across six sectors for an investment of \$585 million. Available on the Aloha+ Dashboard, the survey results were presented to decision-makers and informed job and economic stimulus programs funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding.

Hawai'i Green Growth – a statewide network of public, private and civil society partners and a recognized United Nations Local2030 Hub – conducted a COVID-19 recovery survey to inform the community and policymakers on potential green growth projects

New coalitions to support a holistic recovery include the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration, Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19, by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, and Uplift Hawai'i.

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Aloha Connects Innovation and Kupu 'Āina Corps:

Nonprofit organizations, the private sector and government joined together to launch an economic stimulus program for individuals displaced by the pandemic crisis.

With the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, the Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i and Kupu Hawai'i launched a workforce development initiative: "Aloha Connects Innovation" and "Kupu 'Āina Corps" to employ nearly 1,000 residents combined. The program was supported by the State of Hawai'i with \$10 million in federal CARES Act funding secured with the help of Hawai'i's congressional delegation and disbursed locally through an appropriation

by the Hawai'i State Legislature and \$2 million in CARES act funding from the City and County of Honolulu.

Originally envisioned by Sultan Ventures, the program connects displaced workers with temporary employment in over 300 local companies and nonprofit organizations in emerging industries and sectors aligned with Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge goals such as conservation, renewable energy, local agriculture, creative arts, entrepreneurship and STEM fields. The program demonstrated how Hawai'i can diversify and strengthen its economy by building a green workforce to support resilient non-tourism sectors, moving the dial on the Aloha+ Challenge Green Workforce and Education and other 2030 sustainability goals.



Photo Credit: Kupu Hawai'i

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration:

The 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration centers the importance of guiding values, empowered community voices and energized action in reimagining Hawai'i's economic recovery and resilience. Organized by a diverse group of Hawai'i community leaders, it brings together Hawai'i communities, government, businesses, and organizations to build a resilient economy through a four-step action process and the core value of 'āina aloha— a deep and abiding love for Hawai'i's communities and natural environments.

The 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration garnered more than 2,600 signatories and was adopted by the State of Hawai'i Tourism Authority with resolutions of support by Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i Counties. The group developed a Huliau Action Agenda, assessment tool and collected over 160 proposals from stakeholders to support Hawai'i's economic recovery.





# CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

# CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

The City and County of Honolulu (City), recognized nationally and internationally for strong leadership on climate change, is doubling down on policy and initiatives to increase sustainability, resilience and livability for urban and rural communities. Community organizations, businesses and grassroots efforts are moving the dial on sustainability goals with mālama 'āina programs, beach cleanups, local agriculture initiatives, green economy COVID-19 responses and the launch of the O'ahu Aloha+ Challenge to measure the collective impact of island residents and households.

The City launched One O'ahu in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, partnering with philanthropic, nonprofit and community organizations to distribute food and assistance to seniors, families and vulnerable residents. The City established the Office of Economic Recovery and Revitalization to expand COVID-19 testing, connect residents and businesses with assistance programs and develop a plan to diversify the economy. The Office administered over \$70 million of Honolulu's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding.

The 2019 O'ahu Resilience Strategy, an effort led by the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience (Resilience Office), was driven by and included the voices of thousands of residents and hundreds of community leaders. The Strategy identifies actions to build resilience in the face of shocks and stressors, such as climate change and long-term affordability, respectively.

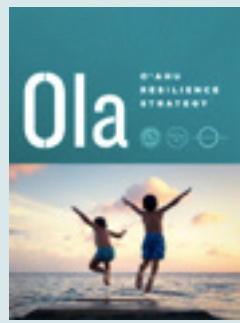
The Resilience Office is creating a Climate Ready O'ahu adaptation strategy and the City's first-ever climate action plan to cut carbon pollution and uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement. Honolulu was the first city in the nation to have a dedicated office with the words "climate change" in the title and attracted early support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program.

O'ahu voters had paved the way for this critical capacity within the City by creating the Resilience Office and the City Climate Change Commission through a charter amendment in the 2016 general election. Voters established an O'ahu Youth Commission in the 2020 general election to ensure the views of young people are part of the City's long-term planning.

and reduce carbon emissions. To make Honolulu more livable and climate resilient in the face of rising temperatures, the City, in collaboration with academic and community partners, is working

on reforestation efforts. It committed to planting 100,000 trees on O'ahu by 2025 and increasing the urban canopy coverage to 35% by 2035.

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Ola O'ahu Resilience Strategy:

The City released the Ola O'ahu Resilience Strategy following an 18-month community engagement and public outreach process led by the Resilience Office. The Strategy was developed with input from all 33 neighborhood boards, 219 organizations and over 2,300 individuals. It identified 44 priority actions across four key pillars: reducing the long-term cost of living; natural disaster preparation; blunting the impacts of climate change; and leveraging the power of community. The Strategy actions are aligned with the Aloha+ Challenge and 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals and provide pathways to mobilize disaster mitigation and recovery options that achieve sustainability objectives while supporting the health, safety and overall well-being of O'ahu residents through a lens of equity.

Photo Credit: Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience

Honolulu hosted the US Conference of Mayors and 2nd Annual Climate Mayors Summit with the Climate Mayors Coalition and C40, a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change and identifying solutions through finance, equity, risk assessment and strategic partnerships. The event featured the Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative, promising over 2,000 electric vehicles across 120 US cities. This reinforced the City's commitment to convert its vehicle and bus fleet to 100% renewable energy by 2035, supporting the goal of 100% community-wide renewable ground transportation by 2045.

The City recently signed into law the strongest single use plastic ban for the nation, phasing out the use of plastic bags, Polystyrene food ware, plastic containers, cups, lids and single-use plastic service ware

by the end of 2021. The City made strides in energy modernization and efficiency, including revising building and energy codes to require all new homes to have solar-ready roofs and electric vehicle-ready parking, as well as a "tropical code" provision that can save residents over 50% on their utility bills.

O'ahu is leading on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) initiatives designed to support vibrant neighborhoods surrounding key transit stations (bus and planned rail) that are pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly with central housing, jobs and community services.

The City created two-way protected bicycle lanes for King Street, South Street and Pensacola Street with more lanes currently under construction to increase healthy multi-modal transportation options

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Biki:

The City is becoming more bicyclist-friendly with new protected bike lanes across the urban core and a large-scale bikeshare system: Biki. Launched in 2017, there are now 1,300 Biki bicycles at over 130 self-service bike stops throughout Honolulu, providing an affordable, zero-emissions transportation option that helps reduce traffic congestion and increases health benefits. By early 2020, there were more than 3.15 million Biki bike rides – about two-thirds by Honolulu residents. Biki, ranked the sixth most-used bikeshare system in the nation, is expanding service with new stops in neighborhoods such as Kaimuki and Kalihi. Photo Credit: Bikeshare Hawai'i

## SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Wai'anae Alliance for Wellness and Place-Based Education :

The Wai'anae Alliance for Wellness and Place-Based Education is a coalition providing community- and place-based learning on the Wai'anae Coast. At the onset of COVID-19, the Alliance launched an effort to safely connect keiki and their families to 'āina (land) while they were sheltering in place. With the rising interest in food sustainability and home gardening, the Alliance distributed nearly 2,000 free seed packets for native edible plants and hundreds of at-home container garden kits to students and families. The Alliance includes leeward organizations Mālama Learning Center, MA'O Organic Farms, Ka'ala Farm, Hoa'Āina O Makaha, Program for After-School Literacy Support (PALS), Searider Productions, INPEACE, Mohala I Ka Wai and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. Photo Credit: The Wai'anae Alliance

## GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Windward Zero Waste School Hui:

Five schools on Windward O'ahu are collaborating to reduce waste and foster environmental restoration, turning cafeteria food waste into black gold – compost. The program has reduced school trash by over 90%, engaging students daily in diverting food waste from school lunches with composting programs using a standardized method developed locally that earned two national awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Windward Zero Waste School Hui has recovered over 170 tons from the waste stream since 2014, and generated \$36,500 from community sales to reinvest in the participating schools in 2020 alone. The Windward Zero Waste School Hui was the first community data pilot tracked on the Aloha+ Dashboard, and is working to expand programming across Windward O'ahu. Photo Credit: Windward Zero Waste Hui

## WASTE REDUCTION





## HAWAI'I COUNTY

Hawai'i Island's leadership on sustainability reflects the diversity of its vast geography from East to West Hawai'i, spanning the five volcanic summits of Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, Hualālai, Kohala and Kilauea. County and grassroots efforts are addressing agriculture, climate action, community-based natural and cultural resource management, as well as building resilience in the face of natural disasters and the COVID-19 crisis.

In response to the pandemic, the County of Hawai'i launched an interactive dashboard displaying COVID-19 data and featuring resources such as food distribution programs. Community partners joined to help those in need through coalitions that serve keiki to kupuna, such as the Food Basket 'Ohana Food Drop, Hawai'i Island United Way's 'Eleu Grants for rapid funding of front-line relief efforts and the Kuauli Digital Opportunities Initiative that works to bridge the digital divide made more critical by moves to distance learning and telehealth.

The County is adept in emergency preparedness and disaster response, having mobilized to relieve communities affected by Tropical Storm Iselle, Hurricane Lane and eruptions of Kilauea that impacted Puna in 2014 and 2018. The County's Kilauea Recovery & Resiliency Team was established to coordinate recovery initiatives and recently released a plan focused on three core strategies: eruption recovery, disaster readiness and community resilience.

The County was the first in the state to pass a resolution declaring a climate emergency and the first to join the Global Island Partnership. Hawai'i joined the other three counties pledging to ensure that all public and private ground transportation is fueled by renewable energy by 2045, with 100% renewable-powered county fleets by 2035.

The County Department of Research and Development collaborates county-wide to achieve local, state, national and international goals for sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Upon the completion of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, the County released the first draft of its climate action plan for public

review. When finalized, the plan will be a guiding framework for implementation along with the general plan, tourism and hazard mitigation plans and community development plans for the districts of Hilo, Puna, Ka'ū, Kona, Hāmākua and North and South Kohala.

Hawai'i Island is making significant strides in clean energy, generating 34.8% renewable electricity in 2019 and preparing to launch the county's first hydrogen bus as part of the Hele-On fleet in tandem with other transportation and mobility initiatives. To shift from a waste management mindset to reduction and resource management, the County joined hundreds of municipalities across the nation and worldwide that embrace zero waste principles. Hawai'i finalized a subsequent zero waste implementation plan over a decade ago and passed legislation to eliminate single-use plastic bags in 2013, prohibit Polystyrene and require recyclable or compostable service ware as of 2019.

Hawai'i Island has a diversity of local agricultural producers. The largest private landowner in the state, Kamehameha Schools stewards over 160,000 acres of agricultural land on Hawai'i Island. Over 16.2 million pounds of food, including fruits, vegetables, proteins and specialty crops, are produced annually across Hawai'i on Kamehameha Schools lands, and the trust is committed to building healthy local food systems by supporting farmer tenants, career pathways and community initiatives and innovation.

Home to the famed Merrie Monarch Festival, Hawai'i Island has a rich community of practitioners, schools and programs revitalizing and elevating Hawaiian culture, language and tradition. Community networks are leading place-based management of natural and cultural resources, such as the 10-year marine reserve and fishery rest area established by Ka'ūpūlehu. Since it was established a decade and a half ago, the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission has used a 2% setaside of county property tax revenues to purchase and protect over 6,500 acres of wahi pana (significant sites) in perpetuity.

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### **Vibrant Hawai'i:**

Vibrant Hawai'i was formed in 2018 as a collective movement to reduce financial hardship and support thriving communities. Inspired by Vibrant Communities Canada's success in reducing local poverty by 10%, multi-sector stakeholders islandwide joined to review data on struggling working families – or ALICE households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) – and to recommend joint actions aligned with shared values and statewide metrics to catalyze social change.

*Photo Credit: Vibrant Hawai'i*

## HAWAI'I COUNTY

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

#### LOCAL FOOD



#### **Local Agriculture on the Kohala Coast:**

The Kohala Coast's diverse agricultural ecosystem advances Hawai'i's goal to double local food production, including the state's first 'Āina Pono farm-to-school pilot serving healthy fresh food in school cafeterias. Ranging from Waimea's Parker Ranch to farmers and fisherman, producers are serving the community through the Kohala Food Hub, farmers markets and farm-to-table restaurants.

Kohala Center's farmer education programs are building the workforce pipeline, and the Kohala Institute at 'Iole, which manages 2,400 acres (including one of

the few remaining intact ahupua'a (traditional land divisions), is increasing agricultural- and aquaculture-based jobs. The Kohala Institute operates a five-acre pilot farm and jointly owns Kohala Mountain Fish Company, which plans to expand to a 30-acre agricultural park showcasing sustainable methods to advance food security needs.

*Photo Credit: Kohala Institute*

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

#### GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



#### **Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority:**

The Hawai'i Ocean Science & Technology Park (HOST) in Kona is a world-class outdoor demonstration site for emerging renewable energy, aquaculture, ocean science and sustainability technologies at the nexus of water, energy and food. Created in 1974 and administered by the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority, the state has invested \$130 million into the park, which has in turn generated nearly \$150 million annually and led to the creation of 600 innovation jobs statewide. The Keāhole Center for Sustainability calls HOST home, serving as a nonprofit business incubator, research facility and economic development agency to provide educational resources for Hawai'i Island residents, businesses, students and visitors.

*Photo Credit: Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i*

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

#### SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



#### **Blue Zones Project**

Hawai'i became the first county-wide Blue Zones Project-approved community in the nation, a project to improve health and overall well-being, which can contribute to lowered healthcare costs, increased life expectancy and a better quality of life. Brought to the state by HMSA, the state's independent licensee of the Blue Cross, Blue Shield Association, the community-led initiative infuses the lessons of the world's longest-living populations to make the healthy choice the easy choice where people work, learn, shop and live. Outcomes on Hawai'i Island include an expansion of

bikeshare, the establishment of the Hawai'i Island Food Alliance, activating wellness programs in 100 schools and workplaces and engaging over 41,000 residents who have pledged to live a healthier lifestyle.

*Photo Credit: Blue Zones Project Hawai'i*



# MAUI COUNTY

Maui Nui has diverse county- and community-led sustainability initiatives that are making an impact on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe and is taking a leading role in biocultural conservation, waste reduction and green workforce and education programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected unemployment in Maui County due to its tourism-based economy, with unemployment rates spiking to the highest in the state and among the highest nationwide at 33.4% in May 2020. Maui County residents have filed over 60,000 unemployment claims between January and August 2020 alone, the bulk of which were a result of the pandemic. In response, the County launched Maui Nui Strong for support relief and resilience and recovery efforts and established a dashboard covering COVID-19 statistics and financial assistance and other programs to residents and local businesses. Sustainability and resilience remain core pillars of Maui Nui economic recovery strategies.

This year, Maui established the Mayor's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (Ke'ena o Hoholu) to support county-wide coordination and development of the Maui County Resilience Strategy and Climate Action Plan to guide county operations. The new office builds on and expands existing programs, including programs with the Office of Economic Development and Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division. The general plan, together with tourism and all-hazard mitigation plans, are informed by participatory, multi-stakeholder efforts such as Focus Maui Nui, which outlined county-wide priorities with recommended actions.

The County established Hawai'i's first Climate Action and Resilience Committee (CAR) within the Maui County Council to focus on carbon emission reduction, sea level rise, deforestation, regenerative agriculture, shoreline erosion and emergency preparedness and response. In addition to preparing hazard mitigation plan updates and establishing baseline studies on greenhouse gas emissions, CAR created a Volunteer Citizens CAR Working Group, emphasizing the important role of community participation in sustainability initiatives.

Maui has a strong network of community-based organizations committed to stewardship of natural and cultural resources, environmental protection, zero waste initiatives, local agriculture and farm-to-school programs,

education and community health. The Maui County Aloha+ Challenge launched on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day supports the reduction of household greenhouse gas emissions and reflects on-the-ground sustainability actions by residents.

In 2011, Maui was the first in the state to ban plastic bags and in 2018, Polystyrene. Maui County will ban plastic disposable foodware in January 2022, building on community-driven composting and zero waste programs.

Home to the annual Hawai'i Energy Conference, Maui County continues to move steadily towards Hawai'i's goal to achieve 100% renewable energy in the electricity sector and to achieve 100% renewable energy in the ground transportation sector by 2045. It surpassed the 2020 interim target of 30% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in the electricity sector, achieving 40.8% RPS in 2019.

Maui County joined the 2019 Climate Mayors Electric Vehicles Purchasing Collaborative at the Honolulu Climate Mayors Summit and is prioritizing electric buses for the next generation of Maui Bus vehicles. The County is a member of the County Climate Coalition, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and Urban Sustainability Directors Network, affirming its commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement and overall climate action and community resilience.

Maui Nui has a diverse agricultural system, with medium- to large-scale production, as well as small community-based farms and associations, kalo mahi'ai (taro farmers), (paniolo) ranching and subsistence fishing and hunting across on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. The sale of 41,000 acres of former sugar cane land in central Maui in 2018 led to new diversified agriculture plans and initiatives, including leasing 40 acres to local farmers in early 2021 and an effort to plant over 700,000 trees. On Lāna'i, hydroponic greenhouse farms are beginning to export produce across the state, with the potential to grow further on former pineapple land. To increase food resiliency, the County is ramping up efforts to support local agriculture and launched a \$2.5 million Agriculture Micro Grants Program for small local farmers. Voters recently established a County Department of Agriculture through charter amendment, which will be effective in July 2022.



# MAUI COUNTY

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

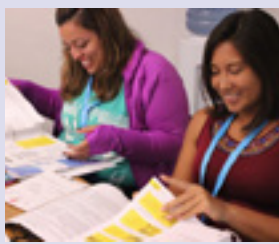
### SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



**Maui Nui Makai Network:**  
The Maui Nui Makai Network is a group of community and partner organizations across Maui Nui – Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i and Kaho'olawe – committed to the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems through traditional Native Hawaiian subsistence and stewardship practices. The Network has engaged four new communities in East Maui who pledged to collectively support each other's efforts to manage and care for the nearshore waters on a regional scale from Ke'anae to Kaupō. One of the network members, Hui Mālama O Mo'omomi, was awarded the United Nations 2019 Equator Prize in recognition of their collaboration to steward nearshore fisheries of Mo'omomi, Moloka'i. Hui Malama O Mo'omomi has worked for over two decades to establish a community-based subsistence fishing area (CBSFA) on the North Coast of Moloka'i. In 2003, the group hosted the first gathering of E Alu Pū, one of the first coalitions focused on community-led management statewide. *Photo Credit: Maui Nui Makai Network*

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



**STEMworks:**  
STEMworks™ is a statewide program led by the Maui Economic Development Board, providing over 40,000 students and 700 teachers each year training and project-based, service-oriented science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The signature initiative works with 31 K-12 schools statewide, providing access to STEM career pathways for students and fostering the next generation of innovators. The program's success spurred the creation of an annual Hawai'i STEM Conference and collaborations with educators, industry partners and the community to support an education-to-workforce pipeline throughout Hawai'i. *Photo Credit: STEMworks*

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

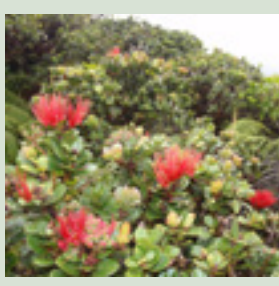
### LOCAL FOOD



**Maui School Garden Network and Grow Some Good:**  
Established in 2008, the Maui School Garden Network now reaches 7,000 Maui and Lāna'i students each year with garden programs in K-12 public, private, charter and independent schools. School gardens connect keiki with nature and promote an understanding of food systems, health, nutrition and sustainability through project-based learning. As part of Grow Some Good, the Network provides resources, training, fieldtrip opportunities and support to scale up sustainable school gardens and farm-to-school programs. It also collaborates with the University of Hawai'i Maui College Sustainable Living Institute Maui (SLIM) to bridge K-12 programs with college-level green workforce development. *Photo Credit: Grow Some Good*

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



**Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve:**  
The largest private nature preserve in the state, the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve extends across more than 9,000 acres of Mauna Kahālāwai – the West Maui Mountains – which provide most of the fresh water for west, central and south Maui. Home to over 300 native plant species, the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve is guided by Native Hawaiian stewardship practices and a culturally informed approach to ecosystem management. Established by Maui Land & Pineapple Co. in 1988, the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve is supported by the state, county, Kamehameha Schools and The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, and is also an active and integral member of the Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership. *Photo Credit: Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnership*

# KAUAI COUNTY

Kauai County, from the island of Kauai to Ni'ihau, has a history of strength and resilience and is making significant steps towards sustainability with community-driven solutions for renewable energy and climate change, biocultural conservation, zero waste and local food.

The County launched Kupa'a Kauai (Kauai Forward) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide a unified vision for recovery. Innovative county programs are providing relief for residents and businesses, such as "Kupuna Kare of Farmer Fare," which purchases food from local farmers and then delivers fresh Kauai-grown produce directly to vulnerable seniors. The County also formed the Kauai Economic Recovery Strategy Team to recover financial losses to the community from COVID-19 and intends to fund a resilience and adaption plan to further diversify the economy – with long-term resilience, sustainability and equity in mind.

Kauai's Sustainability Program in the Office of Economic Development coordinates clean energy, climate action and sustainability action priorities both within government and in the community. Kauai was the first county to double down on its commitment to the Aloha+ Challenge, launching the Kauai Aloha+ Challenge in 2019 to provide a platform for residents to take action on statewide sustainability goals at individual and household levels. Through the Kauai Aloha+ Challenge, residents are tracking their carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency, water use, clean transportation, waste reduction and local food. The County will be developing a climate action and resilience plan, guided by the 2019-2021 Tourism Strategic Plan, which is aligned with Aloha+ Challenge and the 2018 Kauai County General Plan outlining goals to be achieved by 2035.

Kauai joined the other counties in committing to the Paris Agreement to address local climate action, as well as to achieving 100% renewable energy for ground transportation by 2045. The County is committed to green initiatives, such as creating parking spaces with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, work-from-home policies and banning the use of plastics and Polystyrene on county premises.

A Pay-as-You-Throw program, established by the County in 2015, gives residents an economic incentive to reduce waste and increase recycling by basing the service fee on the volume of the curbside bin requested. The program implements recommendations by the County's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. Kauai joined the other counties in passing legislation to ban single-use plastic bags and recently passed a ban on Polystyrene food service containers.

In 2015, the County was awarded a \$15.1 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Lihu'e Town Core Mobility and Revitalization project. The Kauai County Council provided an additional \$2 million for the project. Centered around Rice Street in Lihu'e Town, the project focused on increasing mobility and quality of life for residents with streetscape improvements, a transit hub, new and expanded sidewalks, a shared-use path, improved bus stops, bike facilities and other complete streets features.

The County expanded its sustainable initiatives with Ke Ala Hele Makalae, a multi-use path along the coast that will encompass 17 miles from Nawiliwili to Anahola. To increase public understanding of traditional Hawaiian districts, land divisions and place names, the County partnered with the state, private landowners and practitioners through the Kauai Nui Kuapapa cultural heritage program to install moku and ahupua'a signage on Kauai and Ni'ihau.

Following the devastation from the 2018 flood, the Ha'ena community accelerated an existing 10-year process to develop a Ha'ena State Park master plan to address over-capacity issues and future management at one of the state's most visited parks. With over 3,000 visitors per day before the flood, the master plan developed by the community and adopted by the state created a 900-person daily visitor cap with entry and parking fees, law enforcement and a no-parking zone, while ensuring local residents would continue to have access. State and county funding allowed for major park improvements and the creation of a self-sustaining shuttle service from Hanalei to the park, where revenue from nominal user fees is reinvested into the community-operated program. Ha'ena State Park provides a model that could be applied to other tourism hotspots.

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Kauai Island Utility Cooperative:

The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is accelerating Kauai's lead on the state's goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2045, achieving 56% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in 2019 through a mix of biomass, hydropower and solar. On peak days, the not-for-profit cooperative hits 90 to 100% renewable energy generation for the island. KIUC partnered with Tesla in 2017 to create a 52-megawatt-hour battery installation and a 13-megawatt solar farm in Kapaia, and a year later, successfully launched its Lawa'i Solar and Energy Storage project with AES Distributed Energy on 155 acres of former sugar land. Currently the world's largest operational solar-plus-storage system, the project significantly increases grid stability with a capacity to store 100 megawatt hours of electricity that can be deployed at low cost during peak times. *Photo Credit: Kauai Island Utility Cooperative*

## CLEAN ENERGY



# KAUAI COUNTY

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



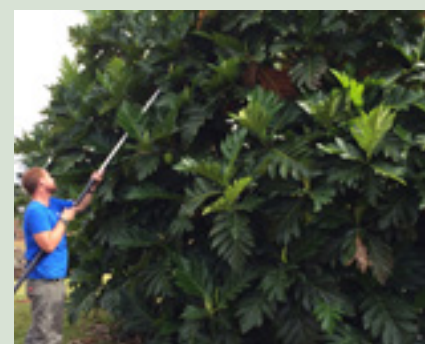
### Ha'ena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area:

The Ha'ena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) was signed into law in 2014 to provide an innovative legal designation that allows for the state and communities to co-manage nearshore ocean resources. Led by the Ha'ena community through Hui Maka'ainana o Makana, the designation establishes community-based rules to manage the area's fisheries with ecological practices grounded in Native Hawaiian tradition and place-based knowledge. Hui Maka'ainana o Makana was awarded the 2019 United Nations Equator Prize for the global importance of their work and has inspired other Hawaii communities pursuing similar co-management designations. The Hui, together with their neighbor and partner Limahuli Garden and Preserve, are using community-based management grounded in traditional cultural knowledge to sustainably care for the entire ahupua'a of Ha'ena from uppermost peaks at 3,000 feet to the off-shore fishery that feeds the community. *Photo Credit: Kim Moe, courtesy of Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo*

## SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### National Tropical Botanical Garden and Breadfruit Institute:

The National Tropical Botanical Garden, headquartered on Kauai and home to the largest collection of native Hawaiian plant species and breadfruit cultivars, established the Breadfruit Institute to promote the use of 'ulu (breadfruit) in addressing global food security challenges. The Institute manages the world's largest collection of breadfruit and works with partners worldwide to support conservation, regenerative agriculture and food security initiatives. The Institute launched a public-private collaboration with Patagonia Provisions to bring breadfruit to the world, resulting in a breadfruit cracker that showcases the versatility of the traditional food crop as a healthy staple in creating a healthier, hunger-free planet. *Photo Credit: National Tropical Botanical Garden*

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Farm-to-School and Farm-to-State Programs:

Kauai is charging ahead on farm-to-school efforts and expanding to farm-to-state initiatives that increase fresh, local and healthy foods served at state institutions like hospitals and correctional facilities, in addition to schools. Through the Mala'ai Kula Kauai program by Malama Kauai, Kauai launched its first farm-to-school pilot in 2017 with two Hawaiian-focused public charter schools. In 2019, Kauai became the first school complex area with authorization from the Department of Education to implement its Aina Pono Nutritional Program, previewing the local menus at Waimea High School. Lawmakers, local business and agricultural partners and farm-to-school and garden networks are collaborating to advance Hawaii's goal to double local food production, including with programs at Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital. *Photo Credit: Hawaii's Public Health Institute*

## LOCAL FOOD



## BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON SUSTAINABILITY & ESG

Businesses globally are taking action to achieve the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Hawai'i business leaders are at the forefront of this movement, as well as the national and international movement towards measuring their companies' impact on communities and employees, as well as shareholders.

Established in 2017, the Sustainability Business Forum (SBF) is a CEO-led initiative representing 24 of Hawai'i's leading companies who share a commitment to Hawai'i and a desire to drive private sector action for a sustainable future. SBF members have aligned their business practices to advance the Aloha+ Challenge and developed and support joint priorities to contribute to Hawai'i's sustainability goals. SBF members engage their counterparts through the UN Global Compact Forum.

Members have embraced Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics and reporting frameworks, and recognizing the uniqueness of island economies, formed a working group to generate island-based metrics to increase transparency and accountability to the local community, shareholders and

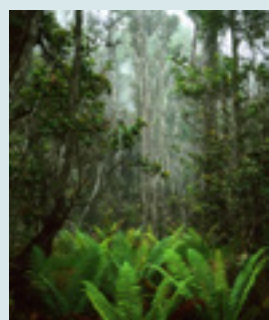
stakeholders. These and other SBF efforts are publicly tracked and measured on the Aloha+ Dashboard.

The SBF, convened by the Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub, meets quarterly at the CEO level to engage in candid dialogue and take joint action to address key sustainability challenges. The group, partnering with public sector and civil society partners, led the development of the Aloha+ Challenge Smart Sustainable Communities goal targets and indicators.

Members identified three priority areas: 1) market-based mechanisms to address climate change, including payments for ecosystem services (PES) and carbon offset projects; 2) adopt sustainable practices that created shared value through the Green Your Business Initiative; and 3) sustainable tourism against the backdrop of Hawai'i's green growth recovery from COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic, individual members increased action to support response efforts and convened as a group to prioritize a green growth recovery and long-term resilience.

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Carbon Offset Pilot at Kona Hema Reserve:

SBF members jointly invested in a carbon offset project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i to improve an 8,000-acre portion of the Kona Hema Preserve on Hawai'i Island. Ten Sustainability Business Forum members — Alexander & Baldwin, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaiian Electric Company, Kamehameha Schools, The MacNaughton Group, Hawai'i Gas, Pulama Lāna'i, Ulupono Initiative, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and the Hawai'i Community Foundation — invested \$150,000 to create the pilot project. The project is expected to generate 120,000 in carbon offset credits that can be sold on the global market in the first 10 years. The project, the first in Hawai'i, is projected to launch in 2021 and allow businesses, residents and visitors to offset their carbon emissions by investing in the protection of Hawai'i's koa forests and improving groundwater recharge.

*Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i*

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Green Your Business Initiative:

As one of its first joint actions, SBF members agreed to develop a list of tangible actions that companies can take to advance each of the 2030 sustainability goals. In support of Hawai'i's 100% clean energy goal, 12 SBF members partnered with Hawai'i Energy's Continuous Energy Improvement (CEI) Program to increase and measure energy efficiency through facility upgrades, employee education and operational and behavioral changes in industrial facilities and offices. Building on this first phase, members are committed to expanding the Green Your Business Initiative with new measurable actions, aligned with the effort to develop locally appropriate ESG metrics. The combined effort of SBF members resulted in over 4 million kWh (4,263,937) in aggregate energy savings.

*Photo Credit: Aloha+ Dashboard*

## BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON SUSTAINABILITY & ESG

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

#### ESG Reports:

To engage businesses and community members throughout the community, SBF brought BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, to Honolulu for a summit open to the public to discuss the ESG movement.

Hawaiian Electric Industries, Alexander & Baldwin, Hawaiian Airlines and Alaska Airlines took the initiative to report on progress towards industry sustainability standards by releasing ESG reports in 2020. The reports communicate how the companies are impacting the environment and Hawai'i's communities, as well as opportunities and risks to their long-term financial strength. Hawaiian Electric Industries and Alexander & Baldwin are expanding reporting in the coming years to include climate risk analysis.

The Sustainability Business Forum has accelerated collaboration on localized ESG metrics, which will focus on Hawai'i-specific environmental and social issues such as sea-level rise and growing affordability gaps. Local ESG metrics will be tracked on the Aloha+ Dashboard.



*Sustainability Business Forum Members convene to discuss the changing landscape and emerging opportunities in sustainable investment at the Sustainable Investment Summit co-hosted by BlackRock and Hawai'i Green Growth in February 2020.*



# CLEAN ENERGY

## CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

**Goal: 70% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the electricity sector by 2030 (40% from renewable generation and 30% from energy efficiency measures), with a goal of 100% RPS for the electricity sector by 2045.**

Hawai'i remains heavily reliant on petroleum for both electricity generation and transportation, importing approximately 45 million barrels of petroleum in 2018.<sup>1</sup> The high cost of imports has resulted in electricity prices that are significantly higher than the national average. It was the first to set a goal of 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the electricity sector by 2045<sup>2</sup> and to become carbon negative as soon as practicable and no later than 2045.<sup>3</sup> The state further mandated all public university and public school campuses to be net-zero in energy use by 2035.<sup>4,5</sup>

Growth in the renewable energy portfolio, combined with energy efficiency programs, puts the state on track to meet the 2045 goal for the renewable electricity sector and ahead of schedule for the 30% by 2020 and 40% by 2030 benchmarks. Currently, a statewide average of 29.8% RPS<sup>6</sup> for the electricity sector is generated from renewable energy, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydropower and other sources. Energy efficiency is key to achieving the state's renewable energy goal, and an Energy Efficiency Standard was set to meet 4,300 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity savings by 2030. Hawai'i exceeded the first interim benchmark by 50%, saving an estimated 2,030 GWh of electricity from 2009 to 2015.<sup>7</sup> As part of the roadmap to 2045, Hawaiian Electric and Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative are playing a key role in increasing resilience, reliability and affordability to support the state's clean energy goal by modernizing the electric grid to enable more renewable energy integration and mitigate future risks from severe weather events and climate impacts.

All four counties set a joint goal in 2018 to achieve 100% renewable ground transportation by 2045. Shifting the transportation sector (ground, marine and aviation) to clean energy remains a challenge. The state consumes approximately 516 million gallons of petroleum per year<sup>8</sup>, which is significantly above the 2030 target identified by the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative in 2008 to reduce usage to 165 million gallons per year. The number of electric vehicles (EVs) has more than quadrupled between 2014 and 2018, with more than 12,000 registered EVs in 2020, though this still accounts for only about 1% of total vehicles<sup>9</sup> on the road, and ground transportation accounts for a substantial percentage of the state's petroleum use.

## HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION BY UTILITY/COUNTY



## AT A GLANCE

**RENEWABLE ENERGY - ON TRACK:**  
Hawai'i's goal of 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the electricity sector by 2045 is on track, with a statewide average of 29.8% RPS in the electricity sector as of April 2020.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY - ON TRACK:**  
Hawai'i's target to meet the Energy Efficiency Standard for 4,300 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity savings by 2030 is on track, and surpassed the 2015 benchmark for energy efficiency by 50%.

**CLEAN TRANSPORTATION - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:**  
Not currently on track to meet the 2030 clean transportation goal to reduce petroleum usage to 165 million gallons per year, and used approximately 511 million gallons per year as of 2018.

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.

# CLEAN ENERGY

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

## CLEAN ENERGY



### 100% Clean Energy Future

Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to set a goal to achieve 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard in the electricity sector by 2045, with targets of 30% by 2020 and 40% by 2030. Passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in 2015, this cutting-edge policy was championed by nonprofit organizations such as Blue Planet Foundation and embraced by Hawai'i's electric utilities. The State Energy Office is collaborating with stakeholders to drive implementation to achieve a decarbonized economy. Hawai'i's 100% goal has since inspired over a dozen US states and territories to increase ambition with similar commitments, including California, Washington State, Arizona, Puerto Rico and Guam.  
*Photo Credit: The Governor's Office*



### Hawai'i Energy

Energy efficiency is a key strategy to achieving Hawai'i's 100% clean energy future. Hawai'i Energy, the state's ratepayer-funded energy conservation and efficiency program, connects community members and businesses to over 40 incentives and rebates that help them reduce energy consumption and save money. In 2019, the result was savings of \$39 million and 134.3 million kilowatt hours (kWh), equal to powering 22,383 homes for a year. Its Clean Energy Ally program provides a listing of green contractors, architects, engineers, vendors, manufacturers and retailers. Residents can obtain free home energy audits with experts like Pono Home to gauge energy use and savings opportunities where renters and homeowners achieved a combined offset of over 12 million pounds of carbon dioxide and \$3.5 million in savings to date.  
*Photo Credit: Hawai'i Energy*



### Hawaiian Electric Community Resilience Initiative

Hawaiian Electric Company is leading on initiatives to strengthen the electric grid and increase resilience. The utility facilitated a Community Resilience Initiative in the Ko'olaupoko region on O'ahu, which was identified as one of the island's most vulnerable communities in the event of a natural disaster that would disrupt electricity, communications and other life-sustaining services. With community, government and business leaders, Hawaiian Electric identified priorities and actions. Engagement continues through an Energy Working Group. The community- and stakeholder-based process demonstrated a procedure that could be applied in other regions.  
*Photo Credit: Hawaiian Electric Industries*



# LOCAL FOOD

## LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

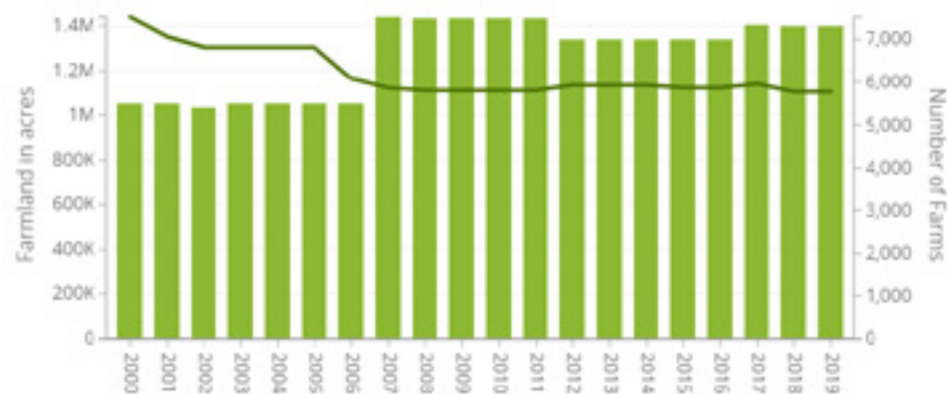
**Goal: At least double local food production, where 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally by 2030.**

Although Hawai'i has a long history of food self-sufficiency prior to Western contact, it is currently reliant on imports for an estimated 90% of its food and faces high rates of food insecurity that affect access to nutritionally adequate foods. The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the critical importance of strengthening Hawai'i's agricultural sector and food system to increase food security, access and health. Food insecurity was experienced by 11.2% of households in 2018, similar to 11.5% nationally, and 18.4% experienced childhood food insecurity as compared to 15.2% nationally.<sup>10</sup>

Local food production has steadily declined since the 1990s, which may be attributed to Hawai'i's competitive disadvantages such as food imports, high local labor, water and electricity costs, competing uses of agricultural land, housing, and food processing infrastructure and limited access to capital. Based on available data, production of most crops has not increased at a pace to meet the 2030 goal, though current production, import and export data are incomplete and have not been available since 2009. Investment to enable reestablishing agricultural statisticians at the State Department of Agriculture will be necessary to monitor production over the next decade. Limited available data indicate that Hawai'i produced just over 100 million pounds of certain food crops for local consumption and export in 2018, a decrease since the launch of *Aloha+ Challenge*, but with modest increases in some categories like fish catch and milk over that same period.<sup>11</sup>

Despite a plateau in the total acreage of farmland in the last decade, there has been a 4% increase<sup>12</sup> in the number of farms and producers from 2012 to 2017 to over 7,000 farms on 1.14 million acres<sup>13</sup> indicating a recent growth in small farms. Youth training programs and a resurgence of traditional Native Hawaiian farming practices have notably increased capacity for local agriculture, as have community-based networks supporting restoration of lo'i kalo (wetland taro) and loko'ia (traditional fishponds and aquaculture). Fishing is part of Hawai'i's heritage and seafood is a primary food source, with local fisheries providing an estimated 45 million pounds annually.<sup>14</sup> Strong initiatives statewide to increase food systems resilience, promote local production, purchasing, and consumption, as well as contribute to workforce development and a renewed connection to land, culture and community.

## FARMLAND AND NUMBER OF FARMS IN HAWAI'I 2000-2019



## AT A GLANCE

**LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:** Production of most crops has not increased at a pace that will double local food production by 2030. Food production, import and export data has not been available since 2009, and investment is needed to reestablish the state's agricultural statisticians to monitor progress.

**FARMS AND PRODUCERS - UPWARD TREND:** There was a 4% increase in the number of farms and producers from 2012 to 2017 indicating a growth in small farms. There are currently over 7,000 farms on 1.14 million acres.

**HEALTH, NUTRITION AND ACCESS - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:** In 2018, 11.2% of households experienced food insecurity and 18.4% of children experienced food insecurity. While Hawai'i's household food insecurity rate is comparable to the national average, access to healthy and nutritious foods needs improvement though more data is needed.

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.

# LOCAL FOOD

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### MA'O Farms

MA'O Organic Farms in Wai'anae, O'ahu is a social enterprise that grows food through sustainable agriculture, and promotes a healthy community through educational scholarship programs. MA'O Farms recently expanded its operations to 281 acres to scale up its operations 10-fold, building on the 1.4 million pounds of food production and nearly 900 on-farm and core internships for youth over the past 20 years. MA'O partnered with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on a study to measure the program's impact on health and well-being, with preliminary results finding that participating interns had an over a 60% decline in risk for Type 2 diabetes.

*Photo Credit: MA'O Farms*

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### 'Aina Pono Program

The 'Aina Pono program is bringing fresh local food to keiki (students) in public school cafeterias across the islands as part of the Hawai'i Department of Education's School Food Services Branch. Beginning with the Hawai'i Farm to School Advisory Group and legislation passed in 2015, the 'Aina Pono program launched its first pilot in Kohala on Hawai'i Island and then Mililani on O'ahu. The program increased local food purchasing and school garden, nutrition and education initiatives. The program expanded to include 'Aina Pono Harvest of the Month recipes, food trucks, pop-up cafes, grab-and-go meals and the Jump Start Breakfast program.

*Photo Credit: 'Aina Pono*

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### GoFarm Hawai'i

GoFarm Hawai'i trains new farmers with program sites on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i. GoFarm provides practical, hands-on training through seminars, workshops, courses and a three-year agribusiness incubator for program graduates. Launched in 2012, GoFarm operates under the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and has grown to become one of the largest beginner farmer development programs in the country.

*Photo Credit: University of Hawai'i News*



## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

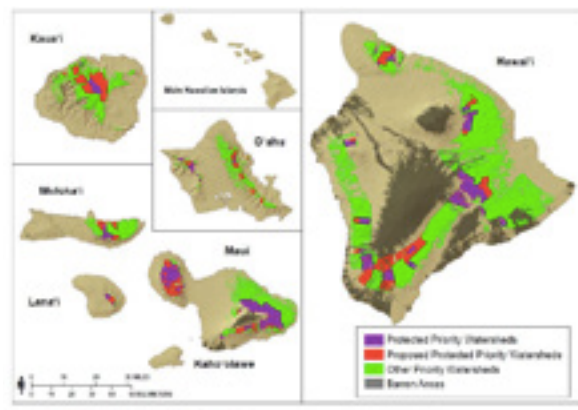
### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Goal: Reverse the trend of natural resource loss mauka to makai by 2030 through protecting 30% of native watershed forests; establishing 30% of near-shore waters as marine-managed areas; increasing freshwater security to meet the projected demand of 100 million gallons per day; and increasing invasive species control and native species restoration.**

Hawai'i, often called the endangered species capital of the world due to a historic loss of natural and cultural resources, now faces continued environmental threats from climate change including increased biodiversity loss, coral bleaching and pressure on freshwater supply. Hawaiian native plants are listed as threatened or endangered at more than 18 times the national average and are now nearly half of all the threatened or endangered plants in the country.<sup>15</sup> Hawai'i hosted the 2016 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, which showcased Hawai'i's cultural legacy of holistic ridge-to-reef stewardship through the ahupua'a system and catalyzed increased commitments by the state to care for Hawai'i's forests and waters. Building on this legacy of stewardship and natural resource management, Hawai'i has strong 2030 goals to protect 30% of priority watershed forest, to establish 30% of near-shore waters as marine management areas, increase freshwater security capacity, invasive species control and native species restoration.

As of September 2019, Hawai'i was just underway halfway to the watershed protection 2030 target with 17.4% (or 146,000 acres) of watershed forest under high-level protection.<sup>16</sup> However, only 6% of Hawai'i's near-shore waters are established as marine-management areas, highlighting the need for significant improvement to reach the 2030 target.<sup>17</sup> Freshwater security also needs improvement to meet Hawai'i's projected water demand identified by the Fresh Water Initiative of 100 million gallons per day (mgd) of additional freshwater capacity in 2030. As of January 2019, freshwater capacity increased by 11 mgd since the 2016 baseline through 4 mgd of water saved from conservation efforts, 5 mgd from reuse and 2 mgd recharged back into aquifers.<sup>18</sup> Hawai'i set a target of 100% reclaimed water use in all state and county facilities by 2045<sup>19</sup> as a part of its efforts to adapt to climate change. In addition, 88,000 cesspools must be replaced by 2050<sup>20</sup> to address the estimated 53 million gallons of untreated sewage discharged into the ground each day, which pose a risk to drinking water, public health and the environment. Invasive species, such as the Little Fire Ant, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and mosquito-borne diseases, similarly pose a risk to Hawai'i's freshwater supply, natural environment, human health, local agriculture and can cause billions of dollars in economic losses each year. Hawai'i's 2017-2027 Biosecurity Plan is the first interagency and comprehensive biosecurity plan to address invasive species, and as of 2019, 50% of the 150 recommended actions have been initiated, are on-going or completed.<sup>21</sup>

### PRIORITY WATERSHED AREAS PROTECTED



### AT A GLANCE

#### ✓ WATERSHED PROTECTION: NEAR TARGET:

Of the target to protect 30% of watershed forest (or 253,000 acres) by 2030, Hawai'i is just over halfway to the target with 17.4% (or 146,000 acres) of watershed forest under high-level protection.

#### ✗ MARINE MANAGEMENT - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

Only 6% of Hawai'i's near-shore waters are established as marine management areas statewide against a target of 30% managed areas by 2030.

#### ✗ FRESH WATER SECURITY - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

Since 2016, Hawai'i has made progress towards the statewide freshwater target with an increase of approximately 11 million gallons per day (mgd) in freshwater capacity relative to a baseline of 0 mgd and goal to reach 100mgd by 2030.

#### ✓ INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL - ON TRACK:

50% of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan's recommended actions have been initiated, are ongoing or completed to prevent and control invasive species.

#### ✗ NATIVE SPECIES - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:

Hawai'i's native plants are listed as threatened or endangered at more than 18 times the national average, and are now nearly half (45%) of all the threatened or endangered plants in the country.

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.



## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



(KUA) which facilitates the community-led networks of E Alu Pū, Hui Mālama Loko 'ia and the Limu Hui.  
Photo Credit: Kim Maa, courtesy of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auama.

#### Holomua: Marine 30x30 Initiative

The Holomua: Marine 30x30 Initiative is led by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to effectively manage Hawai'i's nearshore waters with 30% established as marine management areas by 2030. Holomua 30x30 brings together fishers, cultural practitioners and scientists to design a public process for place-based planning, pono (righteous) practices, protection and restoration and monitoring. Community-based stewardship is supported through diverse networks and grassroots partnerships, including through the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, Conservation International Hawai'i, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, Maui Mui Makai Network, and Kua'āina Ulu Auamo



#### Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships

The Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships includes 10 Watershed Partnerships that work with 95 distinct public and private partners to protect and restore over 2 million acres of land. The first Watershed Partnership began in East Maui in 1991; today these voluntary alliances of public and private landowners and managers facilitate management on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i. In collaboration with their diverse partnership including county, state and federal agencies along with numerous private landowners and non-governmental organizations, the Watershed Partnerships focus on fencing, invasive species control, native habitat restoration, and outreach and education to benefit ecosystem health and achieve numerous conservation objectives including to protect 30% of priority watershed forests by 2030.

Photo Credit: Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships



#### Interagency Biosecurity Plan

In 2017, the State of Hawai'i adopted the first Interagency Biosecurity Plan with a broad coalition of stakeholders to address the threat of invasive pest species on agriculture, environment, economy and health. To manage risks from invasive species from entering and impacting the islands, preborder, border, and postborder threats are addressed by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Health, University of Hawai'i, and other agencies. As an interdepartmental collaboration, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council helps facilitate and track implementation of the 2017-2027 plan with

State agencies and diverse stakeholder networks such as the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and island-based invasive species committees that support on-the-ground action.  
Photo Credit: Hawai'i Invasive Species Council





# WASTE REDUCTION

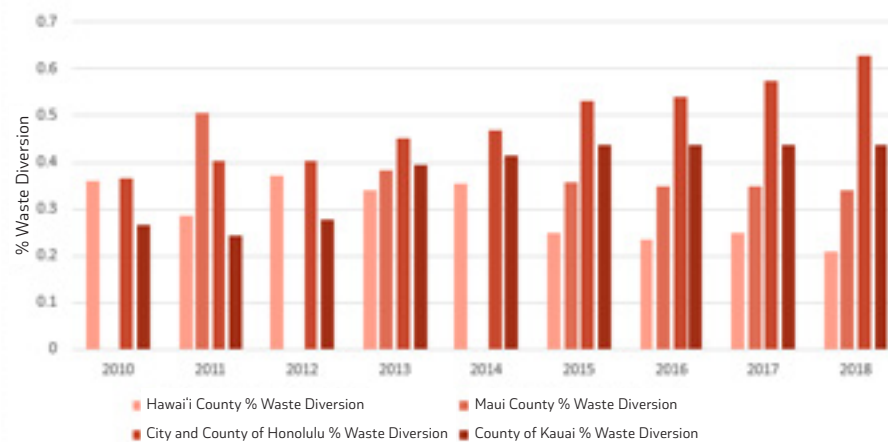
## SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

**Goal: Reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70% through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods.**

Sustainable waste management, with a focus on waste reduction, is an important component to supporting an island's community and environmental health. Hawai'i, like islands around the world, has a history of sustainable resource management, which can advance new circular economy models designed to minimize waste through regenerative systems. Hawai'i set a goal to reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70% by 2030 through a combination of source reduction, recycling, bioconversion and landfill diversion methods determined by each county. While the rate of solid waste diverted annually from landfills statewide increased from 43% in 2014 to 50.12% in 2018, total annual waste generation remained relatively the same with 2.453 million tons produced in 2018.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the City and County of Honolulu converts over 700,000 tons of waste to energy annually on O'ahu through the H-POWER facility,<sup>23</sup> which generated an average of 5% of electricity on O'ahu between 2007 - 2019<sup>24</sup> and can generate up to 10%.<sup>25</sup> Statewide recycling includes a combination of residential and commercial programs, and Hawai'i has various county-level and commercial reuse programs, including for construction and demolition materials which alone make up a significant amount of the waste stream. Comprehensive source reduction strategies and food waste composting systems remain key gaps given that organics and plastics can comprise up to 45% of O'ahu's waste stream,<sup>26</sup> and small-scale composting, reuse and reduction pilots have demonstrated scalable successes statewide.

While geographically isolated, Hawai'i's connection to the global waste management system became more pronounced in 2018 when the international recycling market shifted due to new contamination limits for imported materials. At the same time, the state is consistently burdened by the arrival of marine debris across beaches from the Main Hawaiian Islands to Papahānaumokuākea. All four counties passed legislation to eliminate types of single-use plastics and polystyrene, and recent bans by the City and County of Honolulu and County of Maui will significantly phase out single-use plastics by 2022. The state's multi-stakeholder Plastic Source Reduction Working Group is tasked with identifying source reduction recommendations.

## SOLID WASTE DIVERSION BY COUNTY (2010-2018)



## AT A GLANCE

**WASTE DIVERSION - ON TRACK:**  
50.12% of solid waste was diverted from landfills, not including waste-to-energy, as of 2018 towards the 70% goal by 2030.

**SOLID WASTE GENERATION - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:**  
Solid waste generation increased slightly overall since the 2030 goal was set, with 2.453 million tons of solid waste produced in 2018.

**RE-USE - UPWARD TREND:**  
While consistent, comprehensive data of reused materials at statewide or county-level are limited, approximately 580 tons of construction and demolition materials are diverted annually from reuse on O'ahu.

**SOURCE REDUCTION - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:**  
Limited data are available due to difficulties quantifying waste prevention or imports, and metrics need to be identified to measure this priority strategy for waste reduction.

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.

# WASTE REDUCTION

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT



### Re-use Hawai'i

Re-use Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization that diverts tons of reusable building material from the landfill each week and distributes them to the community at its centers in Honolulu and Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i. Re-use Hawai'i provides deconstruction services on homes and commercial buildings, with the goal to recover the maximum amount of reusable materials. Since 2007, 13 million tons of waste have been diverted from landfills, with approximately 25 tons diverted each week.  
*Photo Credit: Re-Use Hawai'i*



### Zero Waste Hawai'i

Zero Waste Hawai'i is a statewide coalition of organizations and initiatives in each county that collaborates to reduce waste in Hawai'i by building and promoting responsible systems for production, consumption, and waste management. The group hosted the first statewide Zero Waste Summit in early 2020 to develop shared priorities, including state and county level policy goals such as recent legislation passed to phase out single-use plastics. Its members are launching scalable pilot compost and reusable take-out container programs, and expanding business partnerships like Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Restaurant Program which has over 200 participating eateries. In collaboration with Zero Waste O'ahu and Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, the University of Hawai'i Sustainability Office established a system-wide waste audit program across its ten campuses statewide to inform cost savings and help implement waste reduction strategies.  
*Photo Credit: Zero Waste O'ahu*



### Hawai'i Environmental Cleanup Coalition

Community organizations and dedicated volunteers team up to clean Hawai'i's beaches, targeting the global issues of marine debris and plastic pollution. Approximately 8 million tons of trash end up in the ocean annually, and over the past decade, volunteer clean ups in Hawai'i have resulted in the removal of more than 600,000 pounds of debris. In 2017, eleven organizations joined to form the statewide Hawai'i Environmental Cleanup Coalition, and organized efforts with volunteers to remove over 445,000 pounds of litter, marine debris, and derelict fishing nets from Hawai'i's coastlines in that year alone. The coalition supports mauka to makai clean ups and includes the following organizations: 808 Cleanups, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i, Surfrider Foundation, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, Pūlama Lāna'i, Kahō'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Hui o Ko'olaupoko, Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative, Sharkastics and Trees to Seas.  
*Photo Credit: Rafael Bergstrom*



# SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

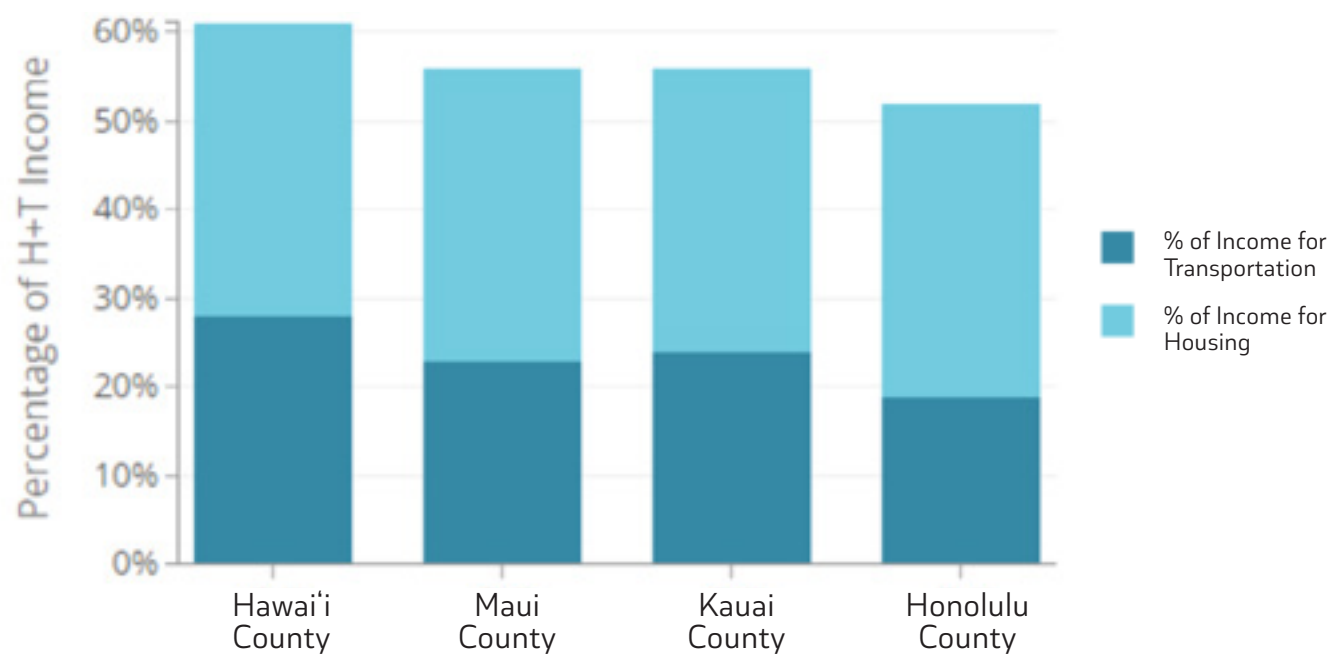
**SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:**  
**Goal: Increase livability and resilience in the built environment through planning and implementation at the state and county levels. Tracks progress on economic, social, and environmental factors necessary to build strong communities through eight main targets: affordable housing; economic prosperity; resilience and disaster management; mobility and accessibility; open, public, green spaces; land use impacts; connection to place; and greenhouse gas mitigation.**

The quality of life and well-being of Hawai'i's communities are impacted by many factors, including the built and natural environment, safety and security, equitable access to housing, healthcare and education, social support networks and sense of belonging. Shocks and stressors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing economic challenges like the high cost of living, and severe weather and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change can significantly affect quality of life, especially for already vulnerable populations.

While Hawai'i residents are considered among the healthiest in the U.S. with lower rates of obesity, smoking and significantly fewer deaths from cancer, inequalities related to the aforementioned social determinants of health persist. There are disparities of up to 10 years in life expectancy<sup>27</sup> between adjacent zip codes across the four counties, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are experiencing diabetes rates above the national average. While nearly all Hawai'i adult residents have health insurance as compared to other states, 15% of Native Hawaiians and 25% of Pacific Islanders are uninsured comprising the bulk of the less than 5% of uninsured adults.<sup>28</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected Pacific Islanders overall with 30% of confirmed cases, and a consortium of organizations and state agencies formed the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resiliency Team.

Hawai'i has some of the highest housing costs in the nation and ranks second highest in the U.S. for per capita homelessness with nearly 45 in every 10,000 people experiencing homelessness.<sup>29</sup> 42% of households struggle to afford basic needs,<sup>30</sup> and on average, 33% of income goes to housing costs and over 50% of earned income is spent on housing and transportation costs combined.<sup>31</sup> The Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) facilitated the development of 9,333 workforce and affordable units statewide

**% OF INCOME OF HOUSING + TRANSPORTATION BY COUNTY (REGIONAL TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD) YEAR AS 2017**



# SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

from 2006 to 2018, as part of a plan to reach 6,971 more new units by 2023.<sup>32</sup> The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority served over 13,800 people in low income public housing programs<sup>33</sup>, many of which are now in redevelopment to support vibrant, mixed-income communities.

These socioeconomic factors impact Hawai'i's vulnerability to current and future risks from climate change, which under a scenario of 3.2 feet of sea level rise by the mid-to latter-part of the century, is estimated to result in \$19 billion in economic losses though does not include the full loss potential across the state.<sup>34</sup> Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is crucial to mitigating climate risks, and improvement in multi-modal transportation is essential given the correlation of the transportation sector and emissions. Hawai'i saw a 7% increase in total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by all vehicles from 2011 to 2018, primarily due to more vehicles on the road with an estimated 67% of Hawai'i commuters driving alone to work and only 6% taking public transportation in 2013.<sup>35</sup>

Hawai'i's has a strong connection to place, grounded in Native Hawaiian culture. An Office of Hawaiian Affairs study indicates that 15% of ahupua'a landowners evaluated have a community-based management plan in place for natural, cultural or economic resources, a slight increase from 12% since 2011.<sup>36</sup> Available data indicate there were over 18,600 Hawaiian language speakers in Hawai'i as of 2013, with a 10% increase since 2008.<sup>37</sup> Civic engagement and volunteerism enhance connection to place, and in 2018, 28% of residents (or roughly 307,000 people) volunteered in their communities, delivering an estimated economic value of \$702.6 million.<sup>38</sup>



Photo courtesy of Scott Kanda

## AT A GLANCE

**✘ AFFORDABLE HOUSING - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:**  
 Residents in all counties on average spend more than 50% of earned income on housing and transportation costs combined. The state developed 9,333 affordable housing units statewide since 2006, with a target to develop 6,971 more new units by 2023, though impacts from COVID-19 on the affordable housing inventory and future housing developments will need to be assessed.

**✘ ECONOMIC PROSPERITY - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:**  
 Prior to COVID-19's impact on the local economy, the percentage of households living below the ALICE Threshold (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) increased from 31% in 2007 to 43% in 2010, and as of 2018, 42% of Hawai'i households still struggle to meet basic expenses.

**⬆️ DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE - UPWARD TREND:**  
 Hawai'i's Social Vulnerability Index has improved slightly over time from a ranking of .52 in the year 2000 to .468 in 2018 on a scale of 0-1 ranging from the least to the most vulnerable. The index denotes vulnerabilities based on U.S. census variables and social factors, though more comprehensive data are needed to assess resilience and a local index is being developed.

**✘ MOBILITY - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:**  
 Total miles traveled by all vehicles in Hawai'i has increased by 7% since 2011 due to an increase in the number of vehicles, and data indicates 68% of Hawai'i commuters drive alone to work, with only 6% taking public transportation.

**⬆️ CONNECTION TO PLACE - UPWARD TREND:**  
 Ahupua'a landowners with community-based management plans increased slightly from 12% to 15% since 2011, and volunteerism grew from 22% of residents in 2015<sup>23</sup> to 28% in 2018.<sup>24</sup>

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.



# SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



# SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### SMART SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



**Community Housing and Development Models:** Diverse coalitions help address houselessness and provide affordable housing options.

Hui Aloha works closely with houseless communities to build pilina (relationships) and support well-being through acts of aloha. The Hui collaborated with Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae, a self-organized communal village of over 200 people living unhoused near the Wai'anae Boat Harbor, to raise the funds to purchase 20 acres of land in Wai'anae Valley. The effort will build a permanent agricultural village on the land that reflects the communal values of the working 'ohana (families), kūpuna (elders) and keiki (children) that call Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae home.

A public-private partnership including the state, City & County of Honolulu and aio Foundation created Kahauiki Village to provide affordable housing for at-risk families who were formerly houseless. Launched in 2018, Kahauiki Village has provided housing for over 100 families and is projected to house over 600 adults and children when completed. Situated on reclaimed land near Sand Island and operating on its own solar-powered microgrid, Kahauiki Village offers its tenants childcare facilities, financial education programs, a sundry store and employment opportunities.

Photo Credit: Aaron Yoshino



### Volunteer Week Hawai'i

Volunteer Week is the largest volunteer-focused campaign in Hawai'i, bringing together residents, visitors, nonprofits, businesses, schools and government agencies to take grassroots action that serves Hawai'i's communities and environment. Launched in 2018, Volunteer Week is facilitated by Kanu Hawai'i each year, and is now the largest state-level celebration of National Volunteer Week in the United States. Over 5,000 volunteers participated with over 100 organizations across Hawai'i in 2019. In 2020, Volunteer Week connected individuals with virtual volunteer opportunities and on-the-ground service providers to support COVID-19 response efforts.

Photo Credit: Kanu Hawai'i



### Genuine Progress Indicator "Island Style"

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) measures indicators beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to capture overall community health and well-being. GPI includes metrics across economic, social and environment sectors, seeking to capture factors and externalities that affect welfare. Researchers at the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Pacific University are leading efforts to identify locally appropriate metrics that reflect Hawai'i's unique context through the GPI "Island Style," including the high cost of living and the impact of tourism on the natural environment.

Photo Credit: GNH USA



### Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration

The Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration is a network of stakeholders committed to a more prosperous, clean and resilient Ala Wai watershed. The Collaboration includes major landowners, the tourism industry, business, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations and community groups, cultural practitioners, and city, state and federal government. Building on several decades of watershed management and community efforts, the Collaboration formed to increase resilience from mauka to makai (ridge to reef) in the state's most densely populated watershed. Members develop policies and solutions for ecosystem restoration that will protect the environment, improve livelihoods, increase risk awareness and reduce financial risk against climate-related weather events such as flooding, wildfire and hurricanes.

Members develop policies and solutions for ecosystem restoration that will protect the environment, improve livelihoods, increase risk awareness and reduce financial risk against climate-related weather events such as flooding, wildfire and hurricanes.

Photo Credit: Hawai'i Green Growth



# GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

## GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

**Goal: Increase local green jobs and education to implement the Aloha+ Challenge and UN Sustainable Development Goals.**

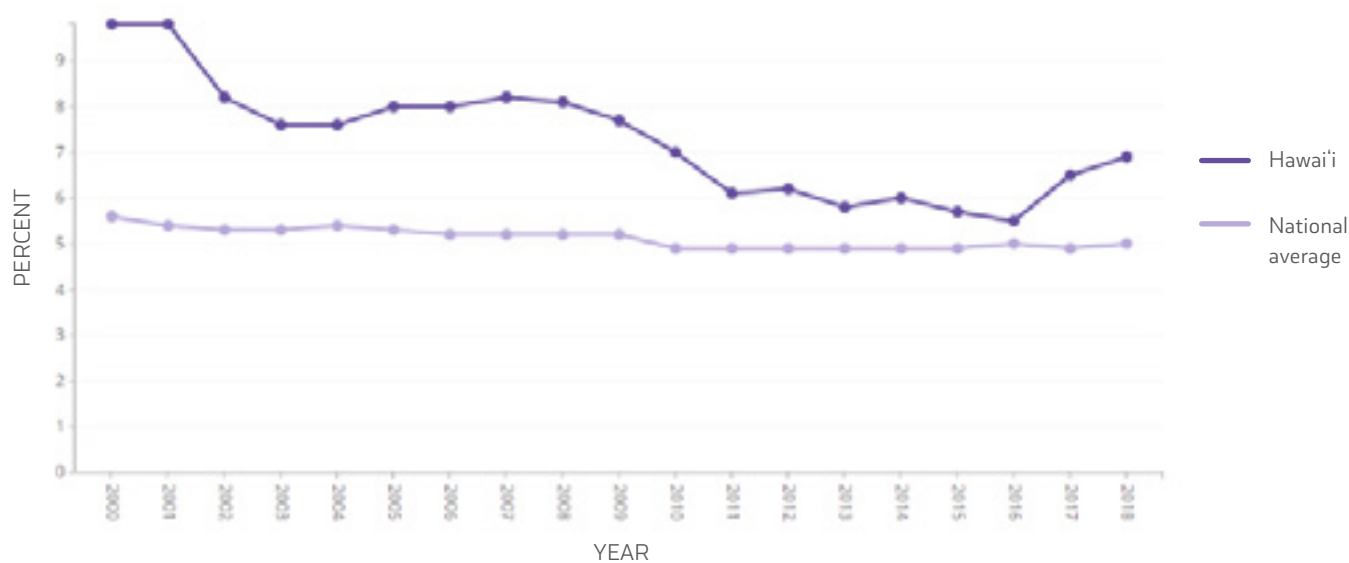
**Tracks progress on seven main targets: 'āina-based education and community engagement; educational attainment and transformational learning; equitable access to education; workforce and professional development; innovation and entrepreneurship; sustainable tourism; and economic diversity.**

Quality education, employment opportunities, economic diversity and innovation are key to achieving Hawai'i's sustainability goals and supporting inclusive, prosperous communities. The Aloha+ Challenge seeks to build a green workforce pipeline that can keep talent in Hawai'i and support sustainable economic growth. A 'green job' is broadly defined as a professional, entrepreneurial, non-traditional, subsistence and cultural-based work that contributes towards the 2030 goals and integrates sustainability principles across sectors. Although Hawai'i has had a relatively low unemployment rate over the past five years, many residents hold multiple jobs to make ends meet; the rate decreasing from a peak of 9.8% in 2001, down to 6.9% in 2018,<sup>39</sup> but remains higher than the US average of 5.0%.<sup>40</sup> However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had staggering impacts on Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and unemployment rates. While Hawai'i's unemployment rate in March 2020 was one of the nation's lowest at 2.4%, it quickly rose to a high of 23.4% in May 2020<sup>41</sup>, becoming one of the nation's highest.

Tourism is the largest private sector industry and economic contributor to Hawai'i's economy, comprising approximately 23% of the state's economy and 216,000 jobs.<sup>42</sup> Visitor arrivals and

expenditures reached an all time high with 10.4 million visitors and \$17.75 billion respectively in 2019,<sup>43</sup> but due to COVID-19, visitor arrivals dropped 99.5% from roughly 35,000 arrivals per day to less than 500. Recognizing the importance of sustainable and regenerative tourism models, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority 2020-2025 Strategic Plan adopted the Aloha+ Challenge and global SDGs, placing a new emphasis on industry sustainability, destination management, and Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. While certifications for sustainable eco-tourism businesses have increased, stronger metrics and more data are needed to measure sustainable tourism. Data shows that Education and Knowledge Creation was one of the fastest growing traded economic clusters in Hawai'i from 1998 to 2014 with high total job creation<sup>44</sup>, indicating growth potential for Hawai'i's innovation economy and diversification opportunities in research and development, technology, engineering, renewable energy, agriculture, creative industries and other growing sectors. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) jobs were projected to grow 3.7% to 31,965 jobs between 2016 and 2026, with over 2,000 jobs opening annually<sup>45</sup>, and Hawai'i has a vibrant ecosystem of incubators, accelerators, and impact investors to support innovation. Digital access is a critical enabler of work, education and community participation. Data indicates that 81% of Hawai'i's population statewide<sup>46</sup> had internet access in 2018, although with significant differences by income-level and geography highlighting the importance of investing in Broadband infrastructure. Hawai'i's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was approximately U.S. \$97.3 billion in 2019,<sup>47</sup> and while GDP is a one measure of economic growth, it does not account for important social and environmental impacts. Hawai'i academic institutions have conducted early research on supplemental indicators, such as the Genuine Progress Indicator

## PERCENT OF WORKFORCE HOLDING MULTIPLE JOBS 2000-2018



# GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

(GPI), that factors in holistic measurement of social, economic, and environmental conditions. Given the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy and continued uncertainty with the global pandemic, near and long-term economic and workforce projections are still being assessed.

Hawai'i has a diversity of public, private, charter and higher-education institutions to help learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to thrive, as well as a strong network of educational programs that support 'āina-based or sustainability-focused learning. While there is no comprehensive number tracking 'āina-based initiatives across Hawai'i and more data is needed, the Department of Education (DOE) Nā Hopena A'o (HĀ) program supports design teams comprised of school staff, community-based organizations and students by hosting 17 Design Teams in the 2017-18 academic school year and 88% of the 256 eligible schools statewide had onsite gardens.<sup>48</sup> The University of Hawai'i adopted an Executive Policy on Sustainability in 2015 which established the UH Office of Sustainability followed by the UH Center for Sustainability Across Curriculum and UH Mānoa Institute for Sustainability and Resilience to support sustainability course markers, degrees, and programs. Of Hawai'i residents 25 and older, 92% have at least a high school diploma and 33.5% have at least a bachelor's degree.<sup>49</sup> Data indicates that 46% of Hawai'i's workforce is college-educated,<sup>50</sup> which is on track towards the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education's goal of 55% by 2025.

## AT A GLANCE

**UNEMPLOYMENT - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:** Unemployment rose sharply as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising from a low 2.4% in March 2020 to a high of 23.4% in May 2020 with on-going fluctuations.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:** 42% of Hawai'i households struggle to afford basic necessities despite holding a job, and 6.9% of those employed in Hawai'i in 2018 held multiple jobs, compared to 5.0% across the United States.

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT - UPWARD TREND:** 84% of Hawai'i students graduated high school on time as of 2018. Of Hawai'i residents 25 and older, 92.3% have at least a high school diploma and 32.9% have at least a bachelor's degree.

**EQUITABLE ACCESS - UPWARD TREND:** In 2018, 89% of youth (16-24 years old) were attending school or employed, slightly up from 87% in 2014 and 85% in 2010.

**'ĀINA BASED EDUCATION - UPWARD TREND:** While there is no compiled number for the many 'āina based initiatives across Hawai'i, the DOE's HĀ Nā Hopena A'o program had 17 design teams in the 2017-2018 academic school year, and 88% of eligible schools statewide had onsite gardens.

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:** 47 businesses were certified as sustainable eco-tourism businesses as of January 2020, which is an upward trend; better metrics and more data are needed to measure sustainable tourism.

**AT A GLANCE KEY:** Available data indicate where Hawai'i is on track, needs improvement and the trend if an agreed target is still under development.



Photo courtesy of John De Mello



## GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



## GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

### GREEN WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



#### Hawai'i Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation has long been part of Hawai'i's history. Today, Hawai'i has a vibrant ecosystem of accelerators, incubators and investors that support the entrepreneurial process for start-up ventures.

Guided by systems thinking, organizations such as Purple Mai'a Foundation empower culturally grounded technologies and indigenous innovation. The Education Incubator creates learning opportunities for students to design place-based solutions for real-world problems. Hawai'i Investment Ready supports nonprofit social impact enterprises that address Hawai'i's most pressing challenges, and Mana Up accelerates local product companies that elevate Hawai'i's brand globally. Elemental Exceleator, which focuses on solutions to climate change and

other societal issues, was recently recognized with the UN Global Climate Action Award for their work with companies at the water-energy-food-waste nexus. Blue Startups, Hawai'i's first accelerator, targets scalable technology companies. Each year, Blue Startups brings in thought leaders, investors and entrepreneurs from Asia, Hawai'i and North America for its East Meets West conference. Nationally recognized Sultan Ventures founded and manages the XLR8® series of community-focused accelerator and incubator programs. Aloha Connects Innovation, the state's economic stimulus program facilitated by the Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i and envisioned by Sultan Ventures, created a new job program in emerging sectors with CARES Act funding to grow Hawai'i's innovation economy as a key pillar of COVID-19 recovery.

Photo Credit: Purple Mai'a

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui brings āina-based education programs to pre-school to college-level (P-20) schools throughout Hawai'i to increase access to locally grown food and strengthen community health. The Hui, comprised of five island-level farm-to-school networks, has representatives from community organizations and the Hawai'i departments of agriculture, education and health and the University of Hawai'i. Formed in 2010 and now part of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute, the Hui focuses on learning gardens, education, school food systems and supports agriculture and food systems workforce development.

Photo Credit: Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Hawai'i Tourism Authority 2025 Strategic Plan

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority, responsible for the state's tourism marketing, research and partnerships, recently launched its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which is aligned with Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and UN Sustainable Development Goals to advance sustainable and regenerative tourism. Grounded in the value of mālama (to care for), the plan prioritizes investment in natural resource and cultural resources, support for Native Hawaiian culture and reciprocity between residents and visitors. The plan is the first document of its kind to be presented in 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) by a state agency.

Photo Credit: Hawai'i Tourism Authority

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Hawai'i Broadband Initiative

The COVID-19 pandemic brought inequitable access to broadband connection to the forefront. The state recently published the Hawai'i Broadband Strategic Plan 2020 to strengthen broadband infrastructure and programs to meet the state's goals. To bridge the digital divide, the Hawai'i Broadband Hui formed as a group of over 200 public and private stakeholders facilitated by the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Transform Hawai'i Government and the Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i.

The Hui is working on multiple actions to widen broadband access, including a Digital Equity Declaration to provide direction for a more equitable digital future.

Photo Credit: State of Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



## SDG SPOTLIGHT

This year, the Hawai'i Voluntary Local spotlights important priorities of climate action, equity and partnerships, with **SDG 13: Climate Action**; **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**; **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**; **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**; and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for Implementation)**.

13

CLIMATE ACTION



### SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with state and global targets.

Hawai'i is particularly vulnerable to the already occurring impacts of climate change such as sea-level rise, severe weather, increased flooding, and strained freshwater supply. Hawai'i is also financially vulnerable, relying on federal post-disaster funding in the event of a catastrophic natural event. Given the existential threat to Hawai'i's environment, ecosystems, economy and island way of life, the state committed to bold action to address the climate crisis.

Hawai'i was the first state in the nation to enact legislation aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, and a year later, committed to net-negative greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as practicable and no later than 2045. The State of Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (State Climate Commission) advises coordinated action in collaboration with the City and County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience and counties developing climate action plans and other initiatives.

As a part of efforts to plan for, coordinate and enhance the state's sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the state recently revised the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan to serve as the climate and sustainability strategic action plan. Hawai'i actively participates in national and international forums of local, state, subnational and regional governments committed to climate action, including the U.S. Climate Alliance, Under2 Coalition, Climate Mayors and C40 Cities network.

The Aloha+ Dashboard tracks Hawai'i's commitment to the Paris Agreement with greenhouse gas mitigation data and disaster management metrics. Hawai'i is currently on track to meet the 2020 target established in 2007 to achieve cost-effective GHG emissions reductions - excluding aviation at or below 1990 levels. Net GHG emissions were 9.23 million metric tons according to an inventory of 2016 GHG emissions as compared to 10.84 million metric tons in 1990, approximately 15% lower than the 2020 statewide goal (1990 levels).

The State Climate Commission, recognizing the serious impacts of sea level rise, commissioned the 2017 Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report to outline projections for consideration in adaptation planning at state and county levels. At a national and regional level, the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), released by the United States Global Change Research Program, detailed stakeholder-based and data-driven findings on the impacts, risks and adaptation strategies for Hawai'i and Pacific Islands.



## SDG SPOTLIGHT

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT

#### State Climate Commission:

The State of Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation that are clean, equitable and resilient. Building on the 2019 Hawai'i Climate Conference with statewide stakeholders, the Commission approved a Climate Ready Hawai'i framework to integrate nature-based solutions into planning to increase ecosystem and community resilience. Under this framework, the multi-jurisdictional body is developing policy tools for state and county departments, such as a climate risk roadmap, operationalizing the use of social cost of carbon into government activities and sea level rise community- and parcel-level permitting guidance. To promote greenhouse gas emission reduction in the ground transportation sector, the Commission is advancing active transportation strategies, multi-modal mobility hubs and management tools to convert vehicle fleets to renewable zero-emission fuels.

### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition:

The voices of students and young leaders are resounding across the globe on climate action. In 2019, Hawai'i students joined millions from around the country and worldwide in student-led and -organized nonprofit climate strikes that raised awareness of the crisis and advocated for action. The Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, formed following the Global Climate Strike, is a youth-led effort to support an equitable, climate-resilient future for Hawai'i through organized climate strikes, community workshops and civic and legislative engagement.

*Photo Credit: Hawai'i Youth Climate Change Commission*





## SDG SPOTLIGHT

### EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

Strong institutions that promote equity, transparency, justice, and peace are critical to building resilient, sustainable communities. Hawai'i has some of the lowest rates of violence in the nation, with relatively peaceful communities, government transparency, and open stakeholder dialogue on addressing historical socioeconomic, racial and other inequalities that persist today.



### SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY:

While Hawai'i is ahead of the global average for representation by women in political and legislative leadership positions at 24.3%<sup>56</sup>, women are still underrepresented politically in Hawai'i with only 28.0% of state representatives and 33.3% of state senators being women as of 2019<sup>57</sup>. In addition, although women have higher college enrollment rates than men in Hawai'i, they earn 19-37% less on average than their male colleagues<sup>58</sup> and make an average of 82 cents for every dollar a man earns.<sup>59</sup> On average, women in the US statistically spend 50 more minutes per day on household activities – or the 'second shift'. Women and girls from marginalized communities, including those who identify as trans women, femme, nonbinary and/or genderfluid, are more vulnerable to economic, social and other inequities.

#### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Feminist Recovery Plan (SDG 5)

Hawai'i's Feminist Economic Recovery Plan: Building Bridges, Not Walking on Backs addresses issues of concern to women, particularly those in marginalized communities. The plan, created by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, offers socially responsible ways to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that prioritize economic diversification and building infrastructure for childcare, healthcare and education. The plan's recommendations support the well-being of women, girls and people who identify as women and includes gender-based violence prevention, financial independence, representation in decision-making and addresses the inequities resulting from COVID-19 that disproportionately impact Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and immigrant women. *Photo Credit: Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women*



### SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES:

Historically, Hawai'i has been a leading state on working towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer plus (LGBTQ+) equality, becoming the first state to offer limited marriage benefits in 1997, followed by legalized civil unions in 2011, and same-sex marriage in 2013 through the Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act.<sup>60</sup> Hawai'i is now considered one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states in the US, and celebrates rich cultural diversity with no single ethnic majority.<sup>61</sup> However, large socioeconomic disparities exist today, with 9% of people below the federal poverty line and 33% ALICE households.<sup>62</sup> Today an ethnic minority, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have experienced historic marginalization and face higher risks for health issues such as chronic diseases and mental health disorders as well as disproportionate incarceration rates than other ethnicities. COVID-19 has further demonstrated socioeconomic disparities, including equitable access to internet, technology and key services, and collaborative networks such as the Hawai'i Broadband Hui and others are working to bridge this digital divide.



## SDG SPOTLIGHT

#### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Aloha United Way ALICE Report:

The Aloha United Way report ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed): A Study of Financial Hardship in Hawai'i brought significant attention to Hawai'i's equality gaps. Tracking poverty trends and financial hardship over time, the report shed new light on major disparities and mobilized diverse coalitions to take action.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation's CHANGE Framework focuses on six key areas: community and economy; health and wellness; arts and culture; natural environment; government and civics; and education. Collaborating with the Hawai'i Executive Conference, philanthropy, business and political leaders are advancing a multi-year effort to address cost of living and to support working families. Nonprofit organizations and networks such as the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, the Working Families Coalition and Hawai'i Alliance of Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) facilitate research, policy and programs to increase community well-being and equity. *Photo Credit: Aloha United Way*



### SDG 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS:

Hawai'i has strong institutions for participatory decision-making and government transparency, and low rates of violence compared to the national average. Hawai'i is relatively safe with the lowest firearm mortality rate in the nation and the eighth-lowest homicide death rate, and violent crime decreased by 8% overall between 2008 and 2017.<sup>63</sup> However, human and sex trafficking as well as racial inequities in the incarceration system remain a challenge. A recent found that 83% of sex trafficking victims in Hawai'i were female, 64% were Native Hawaiian, and 1 in 5 victims was a child.<sup>64</sup> Similarly, 37% of the state's incarcerated population are Native Hawaiian or part Native Hawaiian while people of color are also overrepresented based on population.<sup>65</sup> Hawai'i has a diverse community of government, business, and civil society stakeholders working towards peace and justice in social, environmental and economic sectors, and is guided by the Aloha Spirit Law codified into the Hawai'i Revised Statutes in 1986.

#### ACTION SPOTLIGHT



#### Aloha Spirit Law (SDG 16):

Led by revered kūpuna Auntie Pilahi Pahi with other elders and thought leaders from Hawai'i, the Aloha Spirit Law emerged and was later codified in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes by state lawmakers in 1986.

At a Governor's conference on the Year 2000 in 1970, Auntie Pilahi Pahi introduced the five values that make up the Aloha Spirit Law: A: Akahai, meaning kindness, expressed with tenderness; L: Lokahi, meaning unity, expressed with harmony; O: 'Olu'olu, meaning agreeable, expressed with pleasantness; H: Ha'aha'a, meaning humility, expressed with modesty; and A: Ahonui, meaning patience, waiting for the moment, expressed with perseverance.

The Aloha Spirit Law (HRS Section 5-7.5) acknowledges that Aloha was 'the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i' and that elected leaders 'may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the Aloha Spirit' when making decisions on their behalf. Foreseeing hardship in the 21st century, Auntie Pilahi Pahi knew the world would look to Hawai'i for peace "because Hawai'i has the key - and that key is Aloha." Students of Auntie Pilahi Pahi continue to share her powerful teachings today, and the Aloha Response and Higher Skills Academy has reached thousands of people through storytelling and guided hundreds in practicing Aloha in their personal, professional and civic lives. *Photo Credit: O'ahu Economic Development Board*



## SDG SPOTLIGHT

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Building partnerships for sustainable development is key to strengthening implementation, capacity and accountability to achieve the 2030 goals. Hawai'i's spirit of *laulima* (many hands working together) is reflected by the strong partnerships in place to achieve sustainability and resilience.

**In 2018, Hawai'i was recognized by the United Nations as a Local2030 Hub for local SDG implementation** because of the strong track record by the Hawai'i Green Growth network since 2011 and statewide collaboration through the *Aloha+ Challenge*, which builds on a legacy of indigenous knowledge and wisdom. As a Local2030 Hub, Hawai'i Green Growth is a forum for public, private and civil society partners committed to implementing local and global goals, and to measuring progress through an open-data Dashboard. As a network, Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub convenes stakeholders throughout the year through a Working Group structure covering next generation leadership, policy and legislation, data, and business solutions to drive action.

Increasing sustainability coordination capacity within government at the state, county and at the University of Hawai'i has remained a strategic priority of the Hawai'i Green Growth network since the 2014 launch of the *Aloha+ Challenge*. Hawai'i is now a recognized leader nationally and globally in sustainability and climate coordination. Governor Ige announced the multi-agency Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative as part of the statewide effort on the *Aloha+ Challenge*, and signed into law a statewide sustainability program passed by the State Legislature to establish the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan. The University of Hawai'i established an Office of Sustainability, and an Institute for Sustainability and Resilience that is fostering multidisciplinary curricular programs to empower students to address local-global challenges. The four counties have since established positions, programs and offices to coordinate across diverse sustainability and economic recovery priorities and work closely to build resilience. Directed by voters, the City and County of Honolulu established the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience that led the creation of the O'ahu Resilience Strategy with island-wide community input. This year, the County of Maui created the Mayor's Office of Climate Action,



Sustainability and Resilience, and all four counties are developing Climate Action Plans alongside economic recovery initiatives with community-level platforms to support residential action on the Aloha+ SDGs. Diverse alliances and community-based networks across Hawai'i provide important coordination within key sectors of sustainability from conservation and energy to education, health, local agriculture and innovation.

The 2016 Hawai'i-hosted IUCN World Conservation Congress was a defining moment and involved many stakeholders in bringing the largest international environmental event ever held in the United States with over 10,000 delegates to Hawai'i. Building on this momentum, Hawai'i is working with the United Nations through the Local2030 initiative as a Local2030 Hub to support SDG implementation. With the Global Island Partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub is leading the Local2030 Islands Network which brings together a diverse set of island nations, states and provinces, communities and cultures from all regions of the world to achieve the SDGs, building on island culture and values and indigenous knowledge. The Local2030 Islands Network can serve as a central resource for island-led solutions, and a platform for the development of communities of practice, linking islands in new ways to address climate change and sustainability. Through dynamic partnerships, Hawai'i is working locally and globally to bring an island worldview of sustainable resources management, resilience and prosperity to the rest of the world.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

## NETWORK 2030 SAILPLAN

**Hawai'i Green Growth – a statewide network of government, business and civil society partners and a recognized United Nations Local2030 Hub – established a multi-year strategy (2030 Sail Plan) informed by the Aloha+ Dashboard data trends presented in the Voluntary Local Review. Network members identified potential joint actions to take by 2022, 2025 and 2030 to achieve the Aloha+ Challenge goals, Hawai'i's local framework to deliver on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Priorities for 2021-2023 are identified below:**



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- **Advance a green growth economic recovery** from COVID-19 grounded in sustainability, resilience and equity.
- **Measure annual progress on the Aloha+ Dashboard for statewide action** with data-driven decision making, policy and planning and increased community engagement.
- **Catalyze measureable action across public and private sectors** to increase long-term resilience and implement Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and targets.
- **Establish next generation education pathways for local and global sustainability leadership** grounded in systems-thinking and traditional knowledge.
- **Build Hawai'i's profile as a global sustainability model** and collaborate to scale island solutions nationally and internationally.

**Priority Areas for Action across the ALOHA+ SDGs:**

- Climate Action, Energy and Resilience
- Green Workforce, Education and Economic Recovery
- Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism
- Local Agriculture and Food Systems
- Community Well-Being and Equity
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Circular Economy

This is an excerpt from the Hawai'i Green Growth 2020 Annual Member Event outcome document – the Network 2030 Sailplan and Working Strategy, which is a framework for further action planning by network members in 2021.



## HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH LOCAL2030 HUB

The Hawai'i Voluntary Local Review was developed by the Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) Local2030 Hub in consultation with over a hundred experts and statewide network partners from across sectors with the support of national and international collaborators. We express our sincere gratitude to the many individuals who gave their time and expertise for this report.

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Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV



Photo courtesy of Wayne Richardson IV

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# HE NOHONA 'AE'OIA,

**A Culture of Sustainability**