

# World Conservation Congress Legacy Commitment: “Clean Energy”

100 percent renewable energy in the electricity sector by 2045



Climate change poses the greatest threat to our forests, our coastlines, and our corals. Hawai‘i is also the most oil-dependent state in the nation. We must do everything we can, globally and locally, to reduce our use of fossil fuels. To meet this challenge, we are committed to reaching 100 percent renewable energy use in the electricity sector by the year 2045. Our state energy policy is rooted in one principle: to maximize the deployment of cost effective investments in clean energy production and management for the purpose of promoting Hawai‘i’s energy security.

1. **Diversifying our energy portfolio:** Diversity has always been one of Hawai‘i’s greatest assets. Our energy resources are no exception; we are blessed with diverse resources such as solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy, geothermal, and energy efficiency. Among these resources, geothermal holds particular promise as a clean and firm energy source that is also low-cost. Biofuels, another important resource, should be targeted primarily for jet fuel, and used in electric generation only as a transitional use.
2. **Connecting and modernizing our grids:** Hawai‘i is connected in many ways that make us stronger. Linking the islands enables us to utilize our islands’ best resources, at a scale that will reduce costs. Levelizing electricity rates across connected islands will not only lower rates on neighbor islands, but may also improve overall system efficiency. Since existing technical analyses show that O‘ahu lacks resources and sites to economically move beyond 25-30% renewable energy on its own, investing in undersea cable infrastructure is the pathway to an energy future that breaks our addiction to fossil fuels.
3. **Balancing technical, economic, environmental, and cultural considerations:** Most renewable energy sources are less expensive than oil, but to integrate these resources we often need to blaze new pathways both in technology and policy. Not all clean energy projects are created equal. In order to find the most beneficial long-term solutions, we must focus on

projects that make the best use of land and resources. We are collaborating with partners in the public and private sectors to focus on the most beneficial projects, ensuring that challenges are met with a spirit of collaborative problem solving, not inaction.

4. **Leveraging our position as an innovation test bed:** Hawai'i should not only demonstrate the future of clean energy, but should also help invent it. Our isolated, islanded grids, high energy costs, and connections to the Asia Pacific region make Hawai'i an ideal test bed for new energy solutions. We're working to create an environment where our communities support innovative companies that are solving the world's toughest energy challenges – and creating new jobs and opportunities for investment for a knowledge-based economy right here in Hawai'i. Innovation is the cornerstone of our economic diversification strategy.
5. **Creating an efficient marketplace that benefits producers and consumers.** Government can be a catalyst that ensures both consumers and producers operate in the energy marketplace harmoniously. An efficient marketplace where producers are motivated to provide a service and consumers are well informed to make sound decisions. We understand that producers of energy will enter a marketplace that is fair and open for competition. Therefore, we will continue to support producers that want to bring innovative and cost effective ways to provide energy to our residents. We also understand that consumers have different motivations and resources to avail themselves to new energy technologies. Therefore, we will support and encourage efforts that give consumers the tools to make sound decisions for their energy needs.



Hawai'i is determined to achieve its goal of 100 percent renewable energy generation by 2045, with energy efficiency as a key part of the strategy. Maximizing affordable clean energy is a core strategic goal, and provides the most secure foundation for our economy and way of life.

#### Additional Resources

- Hawaii State Energy Office: <http://energy.hawaii.gov/>
- Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard: <https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/stat/goals/5xhf-begg/fgyu-2f7k/b6pj-n292>