

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-10**

(Committing to Reliable Energy and Decarbonization Innovations on Time (CREDIT)  
Task Force)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, in order to elevate the wellness and resilience of our people, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i (GOVERNOR), hereby declare and order as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i requires the legislature to create counties, and Article VIII Section 5 describes how the State should seek to share the burden of implementing an increase of service to an existing program;

**WHEREAS**, sections 46-19.4 and 196-1.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, direct county and state agencies to prioritize the handling and processing of permits required for renewable energy projects;

**WHEREAS**, section 46.-1.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, among others, describes the authority of the counties to regulate certain aspects of energy including infrastructure siting (1.5(19)), inspection of buildings (1.5(14)(A)(iii)), and enact zoning ordinances (1.5(5)(D));

**WHEREAS**, section 225P-5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, sets a goal of economy-wide net zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2045, and stationary emissions from the energy industry remain at the same level as 1990;

**WHEREAS**, under section 196-71(b)(3), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, one of the missions of the Hawai'i State Energy Office is to "assist private sector project completion when aligned with state energy goals;"

**WHEREAS**, under section 196-72(d)(15), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, one of the duties of the Chief Energy Officer is to facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of renewable energy and energy resiliency projects by coordinating and aligning state and county departments and agencies to support, expedite, and remove barriers to deployment of energy initiatives and projects;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 25-01, *Accelerating Hawai'i's Transition Toward 100 Percent Renewable Energy*, seeks to accelerate the development of renewable energy in Hawai'i to reduce electricity costs, enhance grid reliability, and mitigate the impacts of climate change to Hawai'i recognizing "regulatory frameworks, interconnection requirements, permits, and tariffs governing renewable energy projects are essential to successful deployment" and directing "all agencies shall provide priority handling and processing for all state permits required for renewable energy projects" in accordance with section 196-1.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes;

**WHEREAS**, the Public Utilities Commission's 2024 Inclinations on the Future of Energy in Hawai'i includes the expedited replacement of old, inflexible fossil fuel generation with more efficient and reliable technologies and streamlining the interconnection of renewable energy resources;

**WHEREAS**, additions to generation capacity are necessary in the next five years to avoid reliability concerns and reduce the State's continued reliance on imported oil;

**WHEREAS**, among pending and proposed projects statewide there are 11 projects in Hawaiian Electric's Renewable Energy Procurement Stage 3;

**WHEREAS**, recent policy changes enacted by the United States Congress have significantly shortened the period during which renewable energy projects can claim federal tax credits;

**WHEREAS**, the utility interconnection of a new renewable energy project can take up to nine years, and all parties working together can shorten this duration;

**WHEREAS**, Internal Revenue Service Notice 2025-42 requires most projects to demonstrate “physical work of a significant nature” before July 4, 2026, and to be placed in service by December 31, 2027, which may jeopardize the state’s continued pursuit of lower cost energy that aligns with our constitutional obligation to protect Hawai’i’s natural resources;

**WHEREAS**, renewable energy projects that experience delays in permitting and approvals at the State and County levels could be jeopardized, thereby affecting consumer rates, grid reliability, project developers, and the State’s renewable energy and climate goals, due to new deadlines;

**WHEREAS**, immediate action is needed to begin construction by July 2026 or come online by December 2027, so that the state can ensure the best development costs for Hawai’i ratepayers and avoid costly power supply shortages; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, the GOVERNOR, hereby approve and order the establishment of the Committing to Reliable Energy and Decarbonization Innovations on Time (CREDIT) Task Force (CREDIT Task Force or task force), as follows:

- I. Purpose. The purpose of the task force shall be to convene stakeholders to identify projects that need development coordination to ensure the lowest cost for ratepayers, ensure reliability of the grid, provide a common operating

picture and cross-sector consideration, and align project development and reviews by Hawaiian Electric, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, state agencies, county agencies, and others focusing on those projects that can begin construction by July 2026 or come online by December 2027. This includes all renewable energy projects for which power purchase agreements have been applied for approval by, or approved by, the Public Utilities Commission.

The task force focus is on implementation and problem solving; it shall not be a policy-making body or pursue statutory or administrative rule changes; and it shall not replace the independent review of participating agencies for permitting or regulation. The primary activity of the task force is to safely progress with each of these projects to ensure timely commencement of construction and project completion at the best available cost. The task force shall, at all times, seek to identify how to make safe permit processing easier for state and county agencies including applicant responsibilities.

- II. Members. Membership in the task force is comprised of two groups: (a) representative(s) from state agencies with which consultation, permitting, licensing, or other regulatory processing occurs for the relevant project to be coordinated; and (b) representative(s) from non-state entities having critical and necessary roles in achieving the purpose of the task force. The Chief Energy Officer of the Hawai'i State Energy Office shall serve as Chair.

A. It is expected that the director or principal agent of the following agencies and governmental offices, or such director's or principal agent's designated representative, will attend every meeting convened:

1. Public Utilities Commission;
2. Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy;
3. Department of Budget and Finance;
4. Department of Health;
5. Department of Land and Natural Resources;
6. Land Use Commission; and
7. Department of Transportation

A state agency not listed here but identified as requiring timely facilitation, coordination, or alignment to achieve the purpose of the task force is expected to participate upon request by the Chair.

B. In addition to state agencies, non-state entities having critical and necessary roles in achieving the purpose of the task force may be invited by the Chair to participate. Upon acceptance of the invitation that the Chair may issue, the following are requested to attend every meeting convened:

1. Elected officials responsible for state energy policy;
2. Mayors of each county or their designee;

3. County agencies with which consultation, permitting, licensing, or other regulatory processing occurs for measures within the scope of the task force;
4. Hawaiian Electric Company;
5. Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative;
6. Other utilities or entities with infrastructure necessary to operate renewable energy projects (e.g., communications);
7. Independent Power Producers selected under any of the stages of renewable energy procurement including those eligible for ITCs; or,
8. Energy-related public interest groups focused on ensuring renewable energy development remain consistent with community values.

C. By accepting the invitation to participate in the task force, members commit to be present, be empowered to take action, and be accountable. Members commit to proactively and collaboratively coordinate and problem solve. Members are encouraged to give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit" as set forth in section 5-7.5(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

### III. Procedure.

A. The Chair or the Chair's designee shall convene every meeting of the task force at the Chair's own instance (or in the Chair's discretion, at the instance of any other member or members), and will chair every such meeting convened. The Chair shall determine the agenda for each such

meeting and may add items to the agenda suggested by other members, in the Chair's discretion.

- B. The opening meeting shall be convened by December 5, 2025, and future meetings will be conducted at times and in a manner set by the Chair.
- C. After the first meeting, the Chair can decide whether to call meetings focused on specific counties, projects, or issues that may arise during the course of task force discussions. Members not relevant to those meetings may be excused at the discretion of the Chair.
- D. Meetings shall be restricted in attendance to its members, and any representative or designee of a member must be able to verify his or her authority to represent the member who has designated him or her, to the satisfaction of the Chair. Multiple representatives from a given entity implementing a measure may be permitted in the Chair's discretion upon a showing of relevance and need.
- E. Meeting agendas shall be prepared and distributed in advance, and cover issues such as:
  - 1. Project status updates;
  - 2. Steps to improve permit timelines, including reliance on licensed engineers whose practice is consistent with Chapter 16-115 Hawai'i Administrative Regulations, reliance on specifications acceptable to Hawaiian Electric, and holding queue spots for minor revisions; and,
  - 3. Any other business.

F. It shall not be the intent of the Chair for material that is deemed confidential by a member or a trade secret of any member to be discussed or otherwise published, either on the meeting agenda or in the course of discussions during any meeting. If confidential information with regard to any measure properly before the task force is nevertheless referred to or released to another member or members during a meeting, such information shall remain confidential, and any member receiving such confidential information shall not share it with any other person.

IV. Public Utilities Commission Review. Recognizing the urgency of these circumstances, the Public Utilities Commission shall endeavor to process all agreements and issue all orders needed to ensure projects can be developed in a timely manner.

Done at the State Capitol, Honolulu,  
State of Hawai'i, this 7 day of  
November 2025.

  
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
Governor of Hawai'i

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Anne E. Lopez*  
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ANNE E. LOPEZ  
Attorney General