



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, March 29, 2022
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SCR 108/SR 95
AFFIRMING HAWAII'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS
CLIMATE AGREEMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY.**

Chairs Moriwake and Gabbard, and Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SCR 108 and SR 95, which affirm Hawai'i's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, called on UN Member States to take bold actions to give prompt and real effect to the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment described in resolution 48/13 passed by the Human Rights Council in February this year. In her plea, the High Commissioner described the triple planetary threats of climate change, pollution, and nature loss as the single greatest human rights challenge of our era¹. The resolution also underlines that the most vulnerable segments of the population are more acutely impacted.

UN HRC Resolution 48/13² is in alignment with the Hawai'i State Constitution Article XI Section 9. It also aligns with Senate Concurrent Resolution 44 (2021), which

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1102582>

² <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/289/50/PDF/G2128950.pdf?OpenElement>

declared a climate emergency and called for a just clean energy transition to a decarbonized economy, including action that is rooted in “the belief that people locally and around the world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water, and land, food, education, and shelter.”

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty builds on the success of international campaigns to ban land mines and nuclear weapons by supporting a phase down of fossil fuel exploration and production consistent with a 1.5-degree Celsius global warming target in line with the Paris Agreement. In researching the Treaty, HSEO finds that the principles and actions it calls for are consistent with the above constitutional provision and concurrent resolution, as well as with Hawai'i's nation-leading laws to achieve a 100% renewable portfolio standard for electricity³, mitigate and adapt to climate change consistent with the Paris Agreement⁴, achieve net-negative greenhouse gas emissions⁵, and ending the use of coal in Hawai'i⁶.

Furthermore, HSEO believes that many of the actions the Treaty⁷ calls endorser to undertake are already occurring in Hawai'i and consistent with state policies and activities, including:

- Publicly endorse the need for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty or use language explicitly acknowledging the need for global cooperation and new agreements and treaties on transitioning from fossil fuels: e.g. “Call for enhanced and focused international cooperation and agreements to transition from the production of fossil fuels in line with 1.5 degrees warming, and enable a globally just transition.”
 - Hawai'i has already taken this action in form of language as used in the example.
- Join or convene with other governments as leading a club of countries focused on a globally just transition from fossil fuels, particularly on the elements requiring

³ Act 97, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2015.

⁴ Act 32, SLH 2017.

⁵ Act 15, SLH 2018.

⁶ Act 23, SLH 2020.

⁷<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd3cc5b7fd99372fbb04561/t/6178bd5389fa492c37894a11/1635302740331/Briefing+%E2%80%93+C2%A0Fossil+Fuel+Non-Proliferation+Treaty.pdf>

international action, cooperation and support. This could be through existing groups such as BOGA, new ones, or groups within existing forums (e.g. UNFCCC or UNGA).

- Hawai'i has already taken this action by participating in the UN Conference of Parties and by joining the Under2 Coalition, the Powering Past Coal Alliance, and the US Climate Alliance.
- Publicly endorse the need for a Global Registry of Fossil Fuels, and support the idea that it should be hosted by an independent body such as UNEP.
 - While Hawai'i has not taken this action, a related step that Hawai'i has taken is the Legislature tasking HSEO with being a data clearinghouse that includes fossil fuels data.
- Include supply-side actions and plans for international cooperation on fossil fuel supply in submissions and proposals to the UNFCCC, including in their Nationally Determined Commitments.
 - Hawai'i has already supported international supply side actions and plans for international cooperation through activities such as joining the Powering Past Coal Alliance.
- Offer to use the good offices of the government or head of state to host a Global Commission, or global report, on the issue of the non-proliferation of fossil fuels.
 - Hawai'i has not undertaken this action but could host events to convene these discussions and further elevate Hawaii's leadership while simultaneously promoting renewable energy and tourism.
- Commit to the supply side policies listed above domestically, particularly a moratorium on new expansion.
 - Hawai'i has already undertaken this action through its renewable portfolio standards and coal ban laws.

For these reasons, HSEO supports Hawai'i joining the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Thank you for supporting this resolution and for the opportunity to testify.