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 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.

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

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 endorsers 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.”
    o 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

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3 Act 97, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2015.
5 Act 15, SLH 2018.
7 https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd3cc5b7fd99372fbb04561/i/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).
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.