

# Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

## Proposed Statement on 2020 Climate Change Legislation

To: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

From: Climate Change Coordinator

Re: Proposed statement for Commission's consideration

Date: August 22, 2019

**Background.** The Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) on Climate Change Legislation was established at the Climate Commission's meeting on April 24, 2019. The PIG's scope was defined as: To identify priorities for climate legislation for the 2020 session, especially as related to the statements issued by the Commission on Sept 4, 2018 and Nov 27, 2018. The group met twice --on May 8, 2019 and June 6, 2019--to discuss its findings and recommendations. The PIG presented its findings and recommendations to the full Commission at its meeting on July 17, 2019. The full report is available online on at [climate.hawaii.gov/commission](http://climate.hawaii.gov/commission).

**Proposed statement.** The Commission is being asked to consider and take action on the proposed statement, which is based on the PIG's report, as follows:

To help implement its mandates as listed in Act 32 (SLH 2017), the Commission directs the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator (Coordinator) to be its legislative liaison for the 2020 legislative session and to submit written testimony on behalf of the Commission. The Coordinator should, where possible, help align testimony among lead departments and relevant stakeholders to reflect priorities established in the Commission's guiding statements on adaptation<sup>1</sup> and mitigation.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The recommended strategies or steps [for adaptation] agreed upon by the Climate Commission include:

- Support legislation for disclosure for private property and public offerings located in areas with potential exposure to sea level rise.
- Request all new development, redevelopment and modifications be directed away from beach areas.
- Urge counties to incorporate the 3.2 ft. sea level rise exposure area (SLR-XA) into their general and development plans.
- Encourage agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 ft SLR-XA or more as described in the State's Sea Level Rise report, identify adaptation measures, and to provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission.
- Support legislation that funds State programs to meet mitigation goals, and to bring resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and other climate related impacts.

<sup>2</sup> The Commission's statement on ground transportation emissions reductions is excerpted here as follows:

1. Partner with counties and local organizations to develop and undertake a multi-year educational/public service announcement (PSA) campaign to address the link between the need for a price on carbon, and highlighting the importance of clean transportation in Hawaii—which will increase quality of life, and address climate change impacts by decreasing congestion, commute time and costs, and emissions.

Such coordination would include, but not be limited to, bills addressing:

1. The adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable people, communities, industries, and ecosystems;
2. Amendments that improve protection of Hawaii's beaches, as well as reduce community vulnerability to sea level rise along our coastal areas through resiliency planning, such as: to Ch. 205A, HRS; the need to educate and inform the real estate industry and prospective real estate investors of sea level rise threats by improving real estate disclosure requirements related to level rise vulnerability; and other such strategies; and
3. Substantial and accelerated emissions reduction from ground transportation, using strategies identified by the Commission's Permitted Interaction Group on clean transportation.

In addition, the Coordinator should ensure that all measures are consistent with the Commission's mission which:

"...recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient."

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2. Explore and develop statewide policies and partner with counties to modernize parking policies and parking management, which will reduce overall emissions, congestion and vehicle miles travelled (VMT) from driving, and increase biking, walking, and transit use, to achieve State goals.
  3. Transform State and county fleets to address VMT reduction, congestion, and emissions—especially through electrification, renewable fuels, carshare, and supporting infrastructure development and deployment.
  4. Amend laws, such as the state procurement laws, to better align them with clean transportation priorities.

For the Commission's full statement on ground transportation emissions reduction, see press release here: <http://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NR-Climate-Commission-Recommends-Urgent-Action-to-Combat-Emissions-Nov.-28-2018.pdf>.