

November 6, 2019

To: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

Re: Draft Statement on Climate Equity for deliberation and consideration at full meeting of the Commission

The Commission's mission statement identifies equity as one of three primary considerations for all climate action. To this end, it urges all government entities in Hawaii to:

- Use a vulnerability framework that is appropriate for Hawaii, and incorporate cultural responsiveness, reflect indigenous voices and customary law practices to identify any inequitable distribution of benefits, burdens and processes caused by climate change impacts and policy; and
- Recognize and address the inequitable distribution of benefits, burdens and processes, by incorporating equity considerations into their planning, policy development and implementation for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

For ground transportation policies, such a framework should incorporate equity issues surrounding the adoption of electrification of transportation, as well as a statement on “zero- emission miles.” How will Hawaii's vulnerable communities be assured a fair and equitable transition to clean transportation?

For adaptation policies relating to sea level rise, such a framework should address equity issues surrounding access to information in the identification and prioritization of addressing the impacts of sea level rise on critical public infrastructure—such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, shelters and other structures. How will Hawaii's vulnerable communities provide input into policymaking that addresses the impacts of sea level rise?

For resilience to the impacts of climate change, such a framework should address equity issues related to post-disaster recovery and pre-disaster planning. This needs to recognize and incorporate the communities' vulnerabilities, and access to recovery planning, funds and implementation. How will Hawaii's vulnerable communities participate in post-disaster recovery?