



The United States Congress

AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TULSI GABBARD

HEREBY RECOGNIZE THE ORGANIZERS & ATTENDEES OF THE
2020 HAWAI'I CLIMATE CONFERENCE
FOR LEADERSHIP AND ACTION TOWARD A RESILIENT HAWAI'I

Recognizing the urgency of climate threats, and eager to do its part under the Paris Climate Agreement, the state Legislature created the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission with the passage of Act 32 in 2017. In three short years, the Commission has worked tirelessly with public and private sector partners promoting climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies that are clean, equitable and resilient to climate changes that have been hitting Hawai'i hard, impacting our shorelines, our homes, our farms and our livelihoods.

We commend the Commission and its partners and sponsors for holding this second annual Climate Conference, Hā O Ke Kai, focusing on the importance of communications about climate change impacts and the choices and decisions we need to help Hawai'i become more resilient. Engaging our communities in our planning and response to sea level rise, increasing natural disasters, and pursuing 100% renewable energy is critical. In the process, we must include Native Hawaiian cultural perspectives to ensure the preservation of our heritage as well as our home. Protecting and enhancing our native culture supports our natural ecosystems that are crucial for food security as well as carbon sequestration.

Mahalo to the organizers and attendees of the 2020 Hawai'i Climate Conference, Hā O Ke Kai, for continuing your focus on social equity and climate justice for our vulnerable communities. Hawai'i is leading the way in these efforts, and we all succeed together or we all fail together in this fight for our planet and our future.

January 13, 2020
Date

Tulsi Gabbard
Representative Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)

ED CASE
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1101



HAWAI'I CLIMATE CONFERENCE

East-West Center
January 13-14, 2020

Aloha!

I extend my greetings to all attending the Hawai'i Climate Conference at the East-West Center.

While Aloha is a term of greeting, the literal translation from Hawaiian to English is “the presence of breath”. This year’s conference theme translates into “the breath of the sea”, which calls on all of us to be one with the ocean.

Our host culture has taught us the value of kuleana, especially our responsibility to care for this unique and fragile place as well as the water that surrounds our island home. The Kānaka ‘Ōiwi – the Native Hawaiians – long practiced ocean stewardship that can be traced back centuries to their seafaring ancestors. Their knowledge and expertise still guide us on climate change, the greatest challenge to our environment both on land and in the sea.

Together with you, I remain fully committed to protecting our oceans as well as our public lands and waters, and especially appreciate your support as a member of the House Natural Resources Committee. It is my hope that you will come away from this conference with the confidence, inspiration and skills necessary to protect our environment for generations to come.

With aloha,

Ed Case

Congressman Ed Case
(Hawai'i-First District)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

MESSAGE FROM U.S. SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

In Honor of the Second Annual Hā o Ke Kai 2020 State Climate Conference

January 13 & 14, 2020

Aloha and welcome to all attending the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's second annual Hā o Ke Kai State Climate Conference. I regret that due to my legislative duties I am not able to join you in person for this important discussion.

Hā o ke kai translates to breath of sea, which is an appropriate metaphor to illustrate people's intricate relationship with nature. We in Hawai'i understand this relationship and have been witnessing first-hand the consequences of climate change. We have seen our sea levels rise and erode away our beaches, we have seen our corals bleach due to warmer temperatures and increased acidity, we have seen our native birds die from increased mosquito interactions, and the list goes on and on.

These impacts are daunting. However, I am encouraged by the innovation and dedication of our environmental scientists and community of advocates who are working together to identify solutions to our climate change challenges. One of the major topics of this conference is to discuss climate change communication. I agree that communication is key to action. I spend my days in Washington, D.C. explaining to my colleagues that climate change is real, it is happening in Hawaii, and we must take action now. I rely on the critical information that people in Hawai'i generate and communicate to drive that point home on the national level.

Conferences such as these serve the important role of bringing some of the best and brightest minds together in one room to come up with solutions to overwhelming challenges, such as climate change. I look forward to learning the outcomes of this conference and sharing with my colleagues the progress that Hawaii is making in addressing climate change.

Mahalo to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission for hosting this two day informational conference. I look forward to working with you all to achieve a climate resilient future.

Aloha,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6361



HAWAII OFFICE:
PRINCE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANA'OLE FEDERAL BUILDING
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, RM 3-106
HONOLULU, HI 96850
(808) 522-8970
TOLL FREE: (844) 478-3478





A MESSAGE FROM
U.S. SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ
PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION OF

BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator
Hawai'i

Hā O Ke Kai
2020 Hawai'i Climate Conference

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

January 13 – 14, 2020

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Military
Construction and
Veteran Affairs

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on
Communications,
Technology, Innovation,
and the Internet

COMMITTEE ON BANKING,
HOUSING AND URBAN
AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN
AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ETHICS

CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Aloha and welcome to everyone gathered here for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's 2020 Hawai'i Climate Conference.

Since its conception, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission has worked tirelessly to combat the effects of climate change. Their annual conference not only provides an opportunity for Hawai'i's community leaders, state officials, and climate activists to discuss their objectives and action plans but also educates concerned citizens who want to become more involved. This year's conference emphasizes communication and the role it plays in delivering vital information and making official decisions.

Mahalo to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and its partners for their continued efforts to address climate change. Their work continues to make a real difference throughout Hawai'i. Best wishes for a productive conference.

Mahalo,

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

HAWAII OFFICE:
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD,
ROOM 7-212
HONOLULU, HI 96850
(808) 523-2061

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:
722 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3934

www.schatz.senate.gov

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