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Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

May 10, 2019

RECEIVED
2019 MAY 10 AM 11:10
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Mr. Josiah K. Nishita, County Clerk
Office of the County Clerk
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Nishita:

SUBJECT: **JOINING THE COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION
AND AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF MAUI'S
COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS CLIMATE
AGREEMENT (PAF 19-194)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "JOINING THE COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION AND AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF MAUI'S COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in cursive.

KELLY T. KING
Council Chair

paf:kmat:19-194

Attachment

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 19-223

Resolution

No. _____

JOINING THE COUNTY CLIMATE COALITION AND AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF MAUI'S COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the world's leading climate scientists have reported that there is a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, leading to:

- rising sea levels;
- melting ice sheets;
- an increase of extreme weather events;
- negative impacts to human health and safety;
- destruction of ecosystems; and
- reduced economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted on December 12, 2015, with the goals of:

- reducing carbon emissions;
- slowing rising global temperatures; and
- helping countries adapt to impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the United States ratified the Paris Climate Agreement on September 3, 2016, and committed to its own target of reducing carbon emissions by at least 26 percent by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change are directly manifested in Hawaii, as evidenced by:

- more frequent and larger storms;
- beach loss and shoreline damage;
- higher temperatures;
- decreased trade winds;
- coral reef bleaching;
- drought; and
- flooding; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan establishes a policy to “reduce Maui County’s contribution to global climate change”; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States government from the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless, other levels of government in the United States have persisted in leading efforts to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through initiatives that include:

- increasing electricity derived from renewable sources;
- reducing methane and other short-lived climate pollutants; and
- managing farmland, rangelands, forests, and wetlands to sequester carbon; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2017, the Board of Supervisors for Santa Clara County, California, adopted a resolution affirming Santa Clara County’s commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings opportunities to be at the forefront of innovation in technology, environmentally and economically sustainable commerce, knowledge, health, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County resolution initiated what has become the County Climate Coalition – affiliated with The Climate Reality Project – a program to get more counties in the United States to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County has also established a local chapter of The Climate Reality Project, along with more than 80 other communities; and

WHEREAS, “Climate Reality chapters bring together Americans of all backgrounds and walks of life to push for practical clean energy solutions in their communities,” according to The Climate Reality Project’s website; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, as an island community, Maui County is particularly vulnerable to devastating impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Maui County may launch the first Climate Reality chapter in the Asia-Pacific Region during the 2019 Hawaii State Association of Counties Conference in June; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it approves Maui County's membership in the County Climate Coalition;
2. That it affirms Maui County's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement;
3. That it encourages the creation of Climate Reality chapter in Maui County; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United State States Senator; the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, United States Representative; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; the Honorable Valerie Poindexter, President, Hawaii State Association of Counties; Joe Simitian, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; and Ken Berlin, President and CEO, The Climate Reality Project.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

paf:kmatt:19-194a