

Resolution

No. 22-133

AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF MAUI'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, changes in Maui County's climate are already being felt, through rising sea-levels, destruction of protective coral reefs, degradation of biodiversity, chronic beach erosion and increased flooding, and land ecosystem changes causing dramatic decline among native plant species; and

WHEREAS, our entire community is being impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, youth, seniors, individuals experiencing physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

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WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the critical ongoing work to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming over 50 percent of COVID recovery funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by local governments and other industries; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, Maui County is committed to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and help decarbonize our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Maui County Council's Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee was created and developed to singularly focus on and aggressively address the essential evolution of our environment and energy policies, to reduce contribution to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to put an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production; and

WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans; now, therefore,

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

1. That it affirms the County of Maui's ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

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2. That it urges the United States government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;
3. That it affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the GHG reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and pledges to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement; and
4. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President, United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President, United States; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President Pro Tempore, United States Senate; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate; the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United States Senate; the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senate; the Honorable Ed Case, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Kaiulani M. Hanabusa, United States House of Representatives; His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations; Her Excellency Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria, High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Mitch Roth, Mayor, County of Hawai'i; the Honorable Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu; the Honorable Derek S.K. Kawakami, Mayor, County of Kauai; Alex Rafalowicz, Director, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative; Tzeporah Berman, Chair, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative; Anne Pernick, Community Manager, Stand.earth for SAFE Cities and Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

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