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

March 4, 2020

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

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2020 MAR -4 PM 4:34

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Alice L. Lee
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee:

SUBJECT: **URGING THE 116TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
SUPPORT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON
DIVIDEND ACT** (PAF 20-098)

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE 116TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kelly Takaya King in black ink.

KELLY TAKAYA KING
Councilmember

paf:kmat:20-098a

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-172

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE 116th UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO SUPPORT H.R. 763 (2020), THE
ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND
ACT

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2019, the Maui County Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 19-209 (2019), ACKNOWLEDGING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND COMMITTING TO AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE; and

WHEREAS, the combustion of fossil fuels is the primary contributor to carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is the first state in the nation to legally commit to a zero-emissions, carbon neutral economy by 2045; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 763 (2020), currently pending before the 116th Congress, would create a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund for the American people in order to encourage market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed bill seeks to reduce carbon emissions and is co-sponsored by 80 members of the United States House of Representatives and endorsed by over 100 states, counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the legislation may be cited as the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” which establishes a fee to be collected on sales of petroleum-based fuels with funds generated paid, as a dividend, to virtually all American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the legislation will protect middle and low-income households by providing them with a dividend or rebate that, on average, would be higher than the increased costs of energy for two-thirds of all households during the transition to clean and renewable energy; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University recently published findings that the passage of this bill will result in a 40% drop in greenhouse gas emissions in 10 to 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission strongly recommends that lawmakers enact carbon pricing, declaring that a, "price on carbon is the most effective single action that will achieve Hawaii's ambitious and necessary emissions reduction goals"; and

WHEREAS, many direct climate change impacts are anticipated for the Hawaiian islands, including increases in ocean and air temperatures, sea level rise, droughts, severe weather patterns, ocean acidification, and the secondary impacts of increased risks of wildfires; now, therefore,

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

1. That it supports the 2020 legislation to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; and
2. That it urges the 116th Congress to pass H.R. 763 (2020), and create a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund for the American people to confront the Climate Emergency; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Theodore E. Deutch, Representative, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker, Hawaii State House of Representatives; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President, Hawaii State Senate; Maui County's Delegation to the State Legislature; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.