

Climate Action and Resilience Committee on 2020-10-21 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 10-21-20 09:00

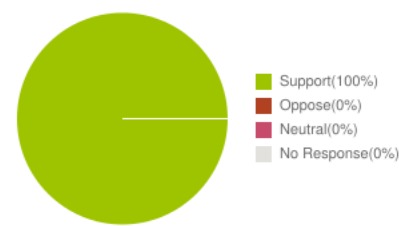
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Climate Action and Resilience Committee on 2020-10-21 9:00 AM	10-21-20 09:00	5	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



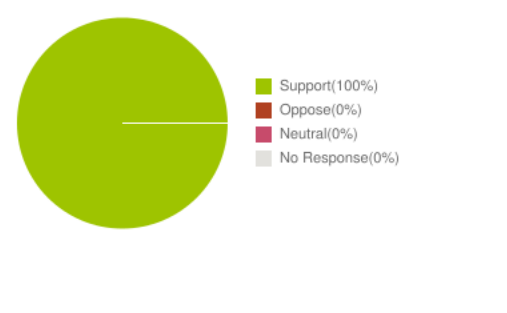
Climate Action and Resilience Committee on 2020-10-21 9:00 AM
10-21-20 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	1	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

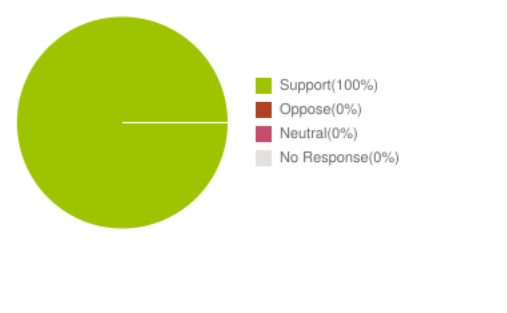
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Jodi Malinoski

Location:
Submitted At: 11:36am 10-20-20

On behalf of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, please see attached testimony for CAR-30.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

IN SUPPORT of CAR-30: SUPPORTING AN AGENDA TO TRANSFORM, HEAL, AND RENEW BY INVESTING IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY: "THRIVE"

Maui County Council

Climate Action and Resilience Committee

October 21, 2020 9:00 AM

Aloha Chair King, Vice Chair Sinenci, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 28,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports CAR-30 and CC-498 relating to the THRIVE Agenda**. The Sierra Club joined a grassroots coalition of over 250 environmental, racial justice, and union groups to support the [THRIVE \(Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy\) resolution](#), which was introduced in Congress on September 10th to set forth a bold, forward-thinking federal economic renewal package that tackles the interlocking crises of climate change, racial injustice, mass unemployment, and public health.

COVID-19 has resulted in nearly 14 million unemployed and more than 200,000 deaths in the United States. Although Hawai'i is slowly reopening and our unemployment rate has declined since the beginning of the pandemic, our state still has the [third-highest rate of unemployment](#) in the nation, with University of Hawai'i economists projecting that ["meaningful" recovery will not happen until mid-2021](#).

For decades, we have talked about economic diversification. The time has long-passed for small steps and short-term solutions to Hawai'i's high cost of living, reliance on imported fossil fuels and food, and over-reliance on tourism at the expense of our environment and local communities. We need the Federal government to support a large-scale economic renewal and recovery plan like the THRIVE agenda to rebuild Hawai'i's economy and put our residents back to work.

The THRIVE resolution recognizes that people are living through multiple crises and calls for stimulating the economy by creating an estimated [16 million new jobs](#) nationwide to help build a more just, healthy and sustainable society. These millions of jobs include:

- 5 million jobs in infrastructure: replacing lead pipes, building clean and affordable public transit, expanding broadband access
- 4 million jobs in clean energy: retrofitting buildings to cut pollution and costs, installing renewable energy,
- 4 million jobs in lands and agriculture: protecting wetlands and forests, cleaning up toxic pollution in communities, investing in family farmers and regenerative and organic farming practices,
- 2 million jobs in care economy and services: caring for children, sick, and elderly populations, expanding public health services,
- 1.5 million jobs in manufacturing: expanding the manufacturing of clean energy technologies
- The THRIVE agenda would ensure that these jobs offer good wages and benefits and safe workplaces by supporting unionization, particularly in marginalized communities.

Hawai‘i should be a part of this economic rebirth by committing to these types of intersectional solutions for our local industries.

Beyond job creation, THRIVE seeks to address the legacy of racial injustice still lingering in our society and the urgent need for investment in public health. This policy recognizes that economic recovery plans from the 2008 recession and original New Deal left behind Black, Brown and Indigenous people and works to improve public health in communities of color and counteract systemic racism. Due to decades of economic and environmental racism, today Black, Brown and Indigenous people are more likely to be unemployed, to live with toxic pollution, and to die from COVID-19 exposure.

THRIVE works to improve public health by reducing air pollution and cleaning up toxic pollution in historically marginalized communities. It earmarks 40 percent of government investments for low-income communities and communities of color — making sure they benefit from long-overdue investments in job creation, pollution reduction, and climate resilience.

We are living through a surreal confluence of immense challenges: a global pandemic, mass uprisings and militarized police, a contemptuous national election, and extreme wealth inequality, all while we deal with [expedited coastal erosion from rising sea levels](#) and the [hottest year on record](#). In this context, it is more clear than ever that each of these problems are connected and that our solutions must match the scale of our problems. We must take action at every level of our government. That is why we urge the Maui Council to act on this resolution today.

The Federal THRIVE Resolution is the work of a massive, national coalition of organizations with diverse interests, from racial justice groups to unions to climate advocates, who believe we cannot go back to “normal” after the pandemic, because normal was fundamentally unjust, unhealthy, and unstable. The THRIVE Agenda outlines policies to build a more just society from the ashes of today’s crises — one that enables dignified work, healthy communities, a stable climate, and racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice.

We appreciate the Maui Council’s statement of support for the Federal THRIVE agenda and urge our Hawai’i members of Congress to sign on to THRIVE.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Sierra Club of Hawai’i in **support of CAR-30**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Malinoski".

Jodi Malinoski
Hawai’i Chapter Policy Advocate