

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE
COMMITTEE

November 10, 2020

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Climate Action and Resilience Committee, having met on October 21, 2020, makes reference to County Communication 20-498, from Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "SUPPORTING AN AGENDA TO TRANSFORM, HEAL, AND RENEW BY INVESTING IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY: THRIVE."

The purposes of the proposed resolution are to urge Maui County's congressional delegation to cosponsor House Resolution 1102, "Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE)," and its Senate counterpart (Senate Resolution 693), and to support the THRIVE agenda.

House Resolution 1102 and Senate Resolution 693 would establish a goal "to build a society that enables—

- (A) increased racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice;
- (B) dignified work;
- (C) healthy communities free from pollution; and
- (D) a stable climate; . . ."

Your Committee received oral and written public testimony in support of the proposed resolution.

Your Committee notes the THRIVE agenda is described at thriveagenda.org as a "bold new vision to revive our nation's economy while addressing the interlocking crises of climate change, racial injustice, public health, and economic inequity with a plan to create dignified jobs for millions of unemployed workers and support a better life for millions

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more who remain vulnerable in this pivotal moment.” The website also asserts that financial investment in accordance with the THRIVE agenda would create more than 15 million jobs. The four pillars of the THRIVE agenda are supported by the public, according to professional polling results.

Your Committee notes the THRIVE agenda has been endorsed by an array of environmental, labor, religious, and social-justice organizations, including Agricultural Missions, Inc.; American Federation of Teachers; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO; Asian Pacific Environmental Network; Association of Flight Attendants; Catholic Network US; Franciscan Action Network; Indigenous Environmental Network; Interfaith Power & Light; Jews for Racial & Economic Justice; NAACP; and Sunrise Movement.

Your Committee noted the Council could be the first legislative body in the country to formally support the THRIVE agenda.

Your Committee received information on the THRIVE agenda from Kaniela Ing, National Climate Justice Campaign Director at People’s Action, an advocacy organization that supports the THRIVE agenda. Your Committee notes the THRIVE agenda resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives on September 14, 2020, with 77 original cosponsors, and more cosponsors are being added.

The Energy Commissioner from the Office of the Mayor informed your Committee the THRIVE Agenda was in line with the Administration’s resiliency and social-equity goals.

Citing the social and health crises arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing climate-change crisis, your Committee concluded the THRIVE agenda’s investments would be timely and beneficial for both the economy and the environment.

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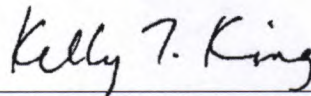
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Your Committee voted 6-0 to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair King, Vice-Chair Sinenci, and members Kama, Lee, Paltin, and Rawlins-Fernandez voted "aye." Committee member Hokama was excused.

Your Climate Action and Resilience Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled "SUPPORTING AN AGENDA TO TRANSFORM, HEAL, AND RENEW BY INVESTING IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY: 'THRIVE,'" be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication 20-498 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



KELLY TAKAYA KING, Chair

car:cr:20030aa:nas

Resolution

No. _____

SUPPORTING AN AGENDA TO TRANSFORM, HEAL, AND RENEW BY INVESTING IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY: "THRIVE"

WHEREAS, as communities try to recover from the pandemic, there is a need for a focused effort to increase equity and help communities thrive; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 1102, "Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy ('THRIVE')," was introduced on September 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, according to an article by Hanna Ziady on *CNN.com* dated January 8, 2020, "Hurricanes, wildfires, and floods cost the world \$150 billion in 2019 and losses for business and the economy are only expected to increase, because of a decade-long rise in natural catastrophes with direct links to climate change;" and

WHEREAS, the principles of the THRIVE Agenda align with the values expressed in Maui County Council Resolution 19-209, "ACKNOWLEDGING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND COMMITTING TO AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE"; and

WHEREAS, the economic cost and catastrophic loss of life that will result from unabated crises of climate change, mass unemployment, racial injustice, and a global pandemic will be far more damaging the longer we wait to create solutions; and

WHEREAS, due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, Mayor Michael P. Victorino issued an emergency declaration for Maui County on March 4, 2020, and Governor David Y. Ige issued an emergency proclamation for the State of Hawai'i on March 5, 2020, with both the Mayor and Governor issuing numerous supplemental directives as the emergency remains in effect; and

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WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), Public Law 116-136, was enacted on March 27, 2020, providing federal funding to state, local, and tribal governments navigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a press release from Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, dated September 10, 2020, the THRIVE Agenda:

- "lays out the unifying principles necessary to build a society that enables dignified work; increased racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice; healthy communities; and a stable climate;" and
- "is built on eight pillars, which span from creating millions of good, safe jobs with access to unions to averting climate catastrophe while investing in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities;" and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2020, the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations issued a news release showing Maui County's jobless rate was the highest in the State, at 20.7 percent at the end of August 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Department further reported it will take two years for local businesses in Hawaii to recover to 2019 job-count levels; and

WHEREAS, the THRIVE Agenda resolves to strengthen and heal the nation-to-nation relationship with sovereign Native nations, including by "making systemic changes in Federal policies to honor and strengthen the Trust Responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, with implementation across all government agencies and with specific attention to environmental and social issues, which are integral to tackling today's crises;" and

WHEREAS, the THRIVE Agenda has the support of over 150 advocacy groups, including the American Federation of Teachers, Center for American Progress, Church World Service, Climate Justice Alliance, Color of Change, Communications Workers of America, Green New Deal Network, Indigenous Environmental Network, Movement for Black Lives, Service Employees International Union, Sierra Club, Sunrise Movement, and United We Dream; and

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WHEREAS, the resolution to THRIVE, also known as the "THRIVE Agenda," had 85 congressional cosponsors as of September 30, 2020; now, therefore,

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

1. That it supports an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy: "THRIVE";
2. That it encourages Maui County's congressional delegation to cosponsor House Resolution 1102, "Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to implement an agenda to Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE)," and its Senate counterpart; and
3. That certified copies be sent to the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United States Senator; the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, Member of Congress; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; and the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii.