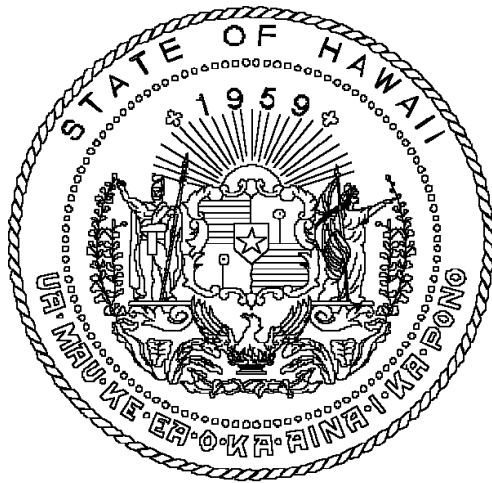


Report to the Thirty-Third Legislature

State of Hawaii  
2025 Regular Session

**HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION**



Prepared by the

Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i

Section 225P-3(k), Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawai'i

December 2024



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

**Hawai'i Climate Change  
Mitigation and Adaptation  
Commission**



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# Commission

## Co-Chairs

**Dawn Chang** - Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

**Mary Alice Evans** - Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

## Commissioners

**James Kunane Tokioka** - Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

**Mufi Hannemann** - Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

**Sharon Hurd** - Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture

**Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira Ka Pouhana** - Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

**Kali Watson** - Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission

**Ed Sniffen** - Director of the Department of Transportation

**Dr. Kenneth Fink** - Director of the Department of Health

**Roy Takumi** - Chairperson of the Board of Education

**Dawn Takeuchi Apuna** - Director of the City & County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting

**Kate Blystone** - Acting Director of the County of Maui Department of Planning

**Zendo Kern** - Director of the County of Hawai'i Department of Planning

**Ka'āina S. Hull** - Director of the County of Kaua'i Department of Planning

**Mike Gabbard** - Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

**Lorraine R. Inouye** - Chair of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

**Nicole E. Lowen** - Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**Linda Ichiyama** - Chair of the House Committee on Water and Land

**Major General Kenneth S. Hara** - The Adjutant General

**Christopher Liu** - Manager of the Coastal Zone Management Program

# Mission and Priority Statements

## **Mission:**

Hawaii's Climate Commission recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-smart, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is Clean, Equitable & Resilient.

## **Priority Statement: Mitigation**

The Commission recognizes that ground transportation contributes significantly to Hawai'i's share of greenhouse gas emissions. It supports a price on carbon, and mechanisms to reduce overall vehicle miles traveled, as well as converting all remaining vehicle based ground transportation to renewable, zero-emission fuels and technologies.

## **Priority Statement: Adaptation**

The Commission recognizes the serious impacts of sea level rise on Hawai'i. It supports legislation to address development along beaches, as well as funding programs that assist in planning and implementation; urges the incorporation of the sea level rise exposure area into counties' general and development plans; and recommends that agencies identify and prioritize their assets that lie within this area.

## **Priority Statement: Guidance for Investment in Resilient Infrastructure**

The Commission emphasizes that nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, and carbon-smart practices must be implemented now and prioritized in all planning and future actions as part of a climate ready Hawai'i. By doing so, it supports State sustainability and climate resiliency which provide a multitude of economic, environmental, and social co-benefits

# High-Impact Climate Actions and Goals

As part of the 24-governor US Climate Alliance, Hawai'i remains committed to specific and new High-Impact Actions that will accelerate greenhouse gas emission reductions and drive the real, impactful implementation and results needed to make the US climate targets a reality. These priority areas include Power, Buildings, Industry, Transportation, Just Transition and Equity, Resilience, Natural and Working Lands, and the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases. These High-Impact Actions build and expand on years of increasingly bold and ambitious commitments and actions from all of the Alliance's states.

## **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- Net-negative greenhouse gas emissions by 2045
- Greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030

## **Infrastructure**

- 100% net-zero operating emissions government buildings by 2030.
- Explore the adoption of zero-emission standards for space and water heating equipment.
- Explore the adoption of Building Performance Standards like those enacted in Colorado, Maryland, Oregon, and Washington.
- Explore the adoption of clean heat standards like those enacted in Colorado and Vermont.
- Take actions to align building sector utility resource planning and procurement policies with state climate goals.
- Join the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Climate Challenge, committing to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions from state facilities by at least 50 percent in the next 10 years.

## **Transportation**

- 100% ZEV new light-duty sales by 2035.
- 100% zero-emission light-duty public fleets by 2035.
- 100% zero-emission public/government-owned transit bus fleets by 2030.
- 100% zero-emission med- & heavy-duty public fleets by 2040, where technically feasible.

## **Equity and Justice**

- Promote sustainable communities that provide a range of affordable housing and transportation options that increase access to opportunity and reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT).
- Empower disadvantaged communities and foster leadership to develop climate/clean energy solutions and policies through training, facilitation, and funding.
- Commit to a just transition that provides for sustainable livelihoods for those reliant on the fossil fuel economy in the shift to more sustainable systems and practices.
- Integrate racial and gender diversity in developing environmental solutions to the climate crisis
- Consider utilizing the social cost of GHG emissions across relevant policy-making and decision-making processes

## **Natural and Working Lands**

- Conserve at least 30% of land and coastal waters by 2030.
- Commit to large scale restoration of forests and other locally indigenous ecosystems.
- Increase tree canopy in disadvantaged and/or heat vulnerable communities by at least 40% by 2030 to mitigate urban heat island effects.
- Increase consumption of food produced within the jurisdiction to at least 20-30% of food consumed by 2030.

# 2024 Highlights: Co-Chair's Message

*Aloha kākou,*

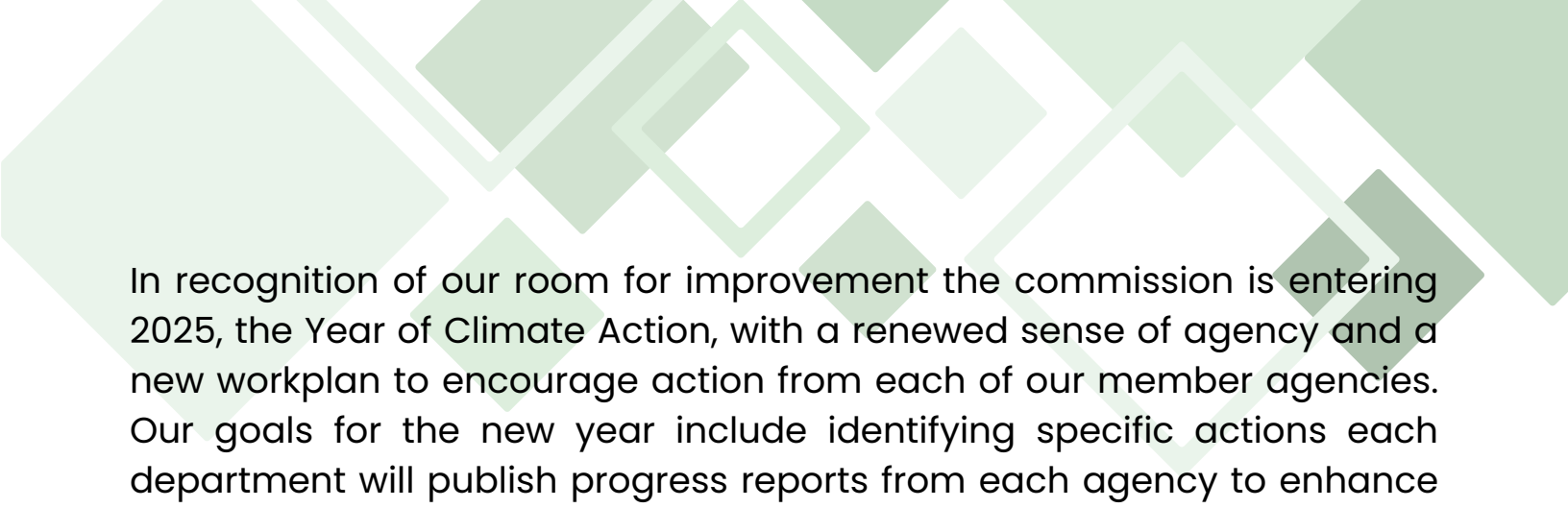
As we reach the halfway mark of the Critical Decade\*, the members of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission want to recognize the effort put forth to address the climate crisis. However, there is still a long ways to go in our journey to a resilient and climate ready Hawai'i. Strong, swift actions are still needed to meet our ambitious climate goals and preserve a life sustaining climate for all of Hawai'i. Our efforts this year include:

**Identifying pathways to climate readiness:** To help us meet our ambitious climate goals, this year we focused on building the pathways and finding the tangible actions we will take to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Hawai'i State Energy Office's Pathways to Decarbonization report published late 2022 will guide our steps to a carbon negative economy. Meanwhile the Hawai'i Department of Transportation outlined their actions to decarbonize the transportation sector of our state and Governor Green's Climate Advisory Team began developing policy recommendations to mitigate the impacts of climate shocks.

**Expanding commission and member department capacity:** Through EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funding the commission brought five additional staff members aboard to support the commission's efforts of climate action, community outreach, climate justice and grant funding for community organizations. Through the Climate Ready VISTA Cohort, our AmeriCorps VISTAs continue to support key offices and projects helping to conduct outreach and communications, expand renewable energy access, and increase capacity.

\*The 2020s are the critical decade for climate action, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.





In recognition of our room for improvement the commission is entering 2025, the Year of Climate Action, with a renewed sense of agency and a new workplan to encourage action from each of our member agencies. Our goals for the new year include identifying specific actions each department will publish progress reports from each agency to enhance a culture of collaboration to each other and the people of Hawaii.

This year, again, the Commission, its member departments, its staff, and its VISTAs are honored and proud to support Hawai'i's public, legislative and executive branches in service of Act 32 SLH 2017, amending Chapter 225P-3.

With aloha,

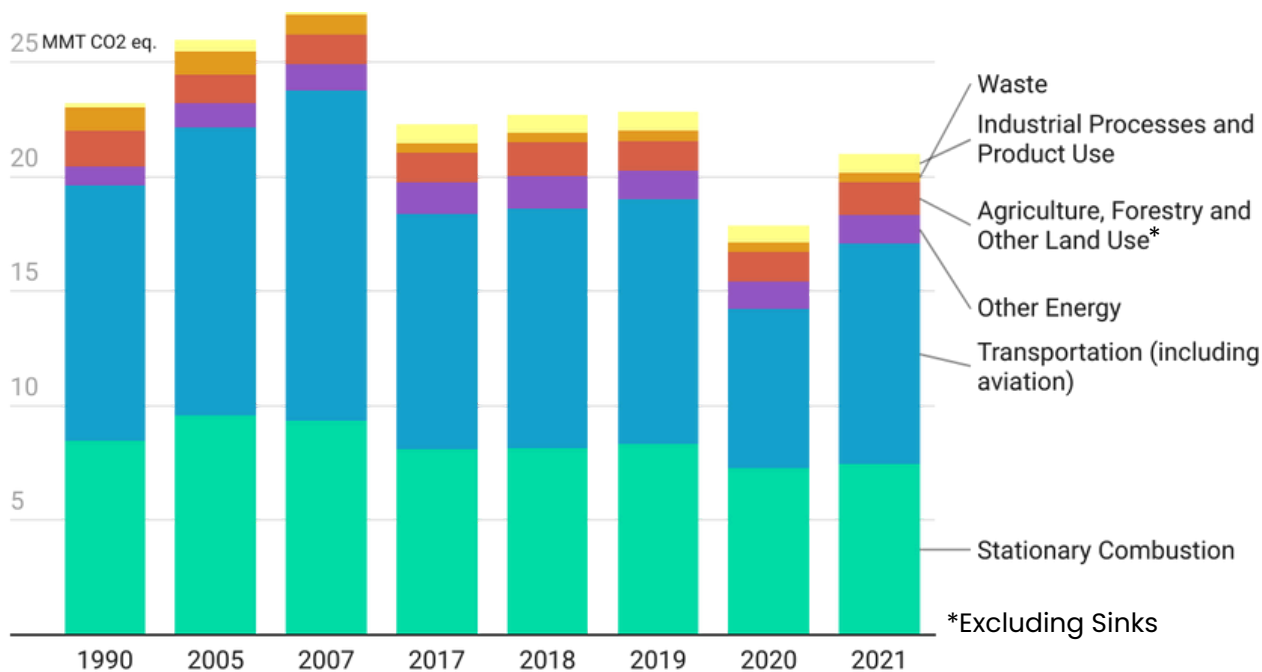
Dawn Chang Co-Chair,  
Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Chair,  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Mary Alice Evans Co-Chair,  
Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Director,  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development,  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

# Progress Towards Hawai'i's Climate Goals

Since Hawai'i became the first state to declare a climate emergency, we have proved to be a small state with large goals. Our Mission and Priority Statements underscore the ambition of Hawai'i to mitigate climate change. While effective tracking mechanisms are in place for many metrics including greenhouse gas emissions, Hawai'i has failed to accelerate action at the rate needed to meet long term climate goals.

## Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

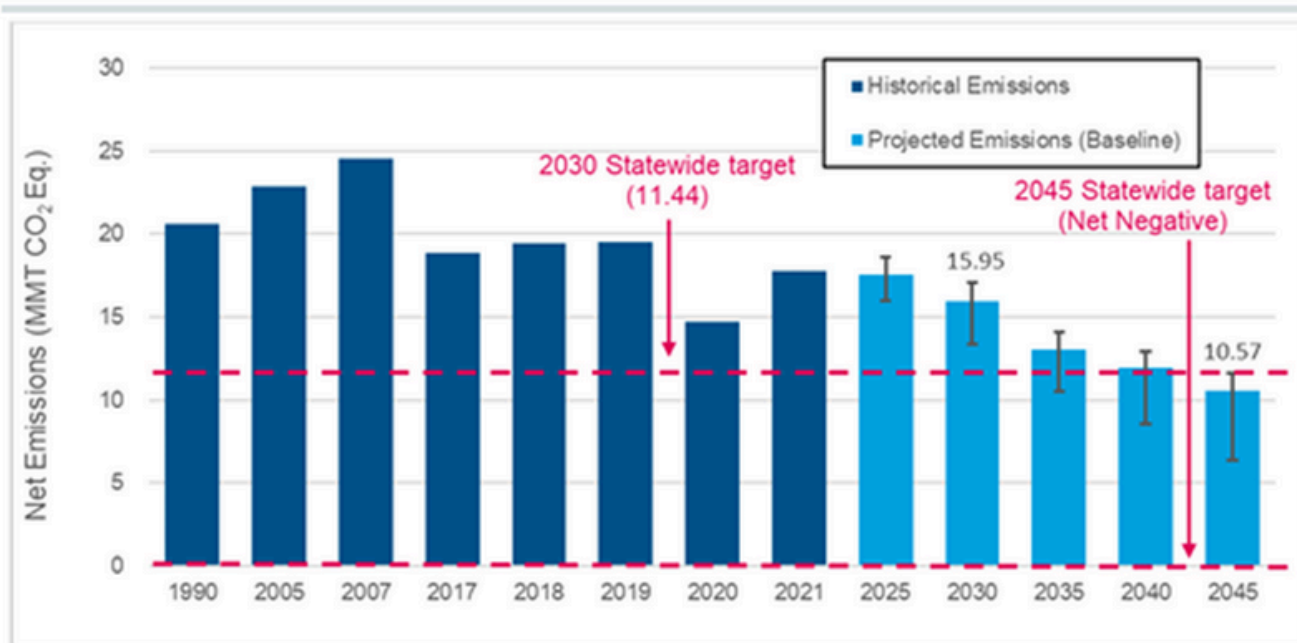


Data Source: Hawai'i Department of Health: Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2020 and 2021  
[https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2024/05/2020-and-2021-Inventory\\_Final-Report\\_5-29-24.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2024/05/2020-and-2021-Inventory_Final-Report_5-29-24.pdf)

# Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Program

Since 2007, the Hawai'i Department of Health has tracked greenhouse gas emissions and currently publishes greenhouse gas inventories annually to track Hawai'i progress towards our emissions reduction goals. In May 2024, the Department of Health published their most recent inventory of the 2020 and 2021 greenhouse gas emissions. Based on this report and the figure below, Hawai'i exceeded our goal set by Act 234 in 2007 to achieve emission levels at or below Hawai'i's 1990 GHG emissions by January 1, 2020. However, projections show that, for the second year in a row, **Hawai'i is not on track to meet the 2030 or 2045 statewide emissions targets.** This illustrates an urgent need to accelerate decarbonization and sequestration in Hawai'i if we are to meet the targets set by the legislature.

Figure ES-5: Hawai'i Net GHG Emissions Estimates and Projections (MMT CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.) (Including Sinks and Aviation)



Learn More: [https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2024/05/2020-and-2021-Inventory\\_Final-Report\\_5-29-24.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2024/05/2020-and-2021-Inventory_Final-Report_5-29-24.pdf)

# Clean Transportation:

## Navahine v. Hawaii Department of Transportation

In a landmark court case brought to court in 2022, 14 youth plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the State of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation claiming that the transportation system yields significant greenhouse gas emissions, which violate their state constitutional right to a life-sustaining climate. The case ended in a settlement agreement between the State, HDOT and the youth plaintiffs with the HDOT agreeing take immediate actions including:

- Implementing a greenhouse gas reduction plan to decarbonize the sector in the next 20 years
- Creating a lead unit and responsible positions to coordinate decarbonization, climate adaptation and mitigation and complete streets initiatives
- Establishing a volunteer advisory youth council
- Prioritizing reduction of GHG and vehicle miles traveled through budgeting and disclosing the GHG and VMT impacts of projects
- Making immediate, ambitious investments in clean transportation infrastructure



Navahine youth plaintiffs and Governor Green's press conference following the settlement

Learn More:

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/office-of-the-governor-news-release-historic-agreement-settles-navahine-climate-litigation/>

Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation is the first case of its kind and the result acknowledges that children in Hawai'i have a constitutional right to a life sustaining climate and once again makes Hawai'i a leader in our commitment to addressing climate change by decarbonizing our transportation sector.

# Operationalizing Climate Ready Hawai'i

**To achieve the goals set forth by the state of Hawai'i and abide by the Commission's own principles set forth in its mission statements, the commission has undertaken the Climate Ready Hawai'i Initiative. The following projects and actions summarize the climate actions taken in 2024 by the Commission to advance a Climate Ready Hawai'i.**

## Climate Action Planning

In March, the commission published the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) which outlines seventeen actions across islands and sectors to reduce future climate impacts. To create the PCAP, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) partnered with the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO), the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), all four Hawai'i counties, and competitively selected community partners to identify immediate actions that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and air pollution, create high-quality jobs, spur economic growth, and enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in Hawai'i.

The PCAP outlines Hawai'i's priority measures to reduce GHG emissions and achieve climate change goals in a manner that is clean, equitable, and resilient. The seventeen priority measures detailed in the PCAP address GHG reductions from 2025 through 2050.

These priority measures complement Hawai'i's existing climate policies and initiatives that mitigate emissions and were chosen based on their GHG reduction potential, high degree of implementation readiness, cost-effectiveness, and the additional community benefits they provide. This plan is the precursor to the Climate Action Pathways (CAP).

Efforts are underway to draft the CAP which will build upon the 2022 report Pathways to Decarbonization, and identify all major sources and sinks of GHGs, establish short and long term reduction goals, and fitting strategies and measures. The CAP will examine current GHG emissions, and projected emissions without any changes to status quo activities, and compare these to projected emissions with economy-wide GHG reduction activities fully carried out.

The CAP is currently being co-developed with community voices, county, state and non-profit voices. Community engagement is particularly focused on ensuring disadvantaged and marginalized communities are included in identification of the pathways and that the planning process is accessible. Engagement will also build a broad coalition of local organizations and leaders to ensure all of our communities are represented in the engagement and planning process. The CAP is scheduled to be released for comments in summer 2025 with the final draft published by the end of 2025.

## Funds Sought and Awarded

This year the Commission actively sought funding to support climate projects across the state that will support both adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change.

The commission applied for \$50 million in additional funding from the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program this year to fund new and ongoing projects in partnership with counties, other state agencies and community partners. This funding opportunity was crucial to supporting the actions outlined in the PCAP published in March of this year. Unfortunately, only 25 awards were given to over 200 applications and Hawai'i was one of many state and tribal bodies who were not awarded any grant funding despite having high scoring applications.

We have continued to use application material from this grant application to apply for Community Change grants to bridge the gap in funding.

Funding was renewed from AmeriCorps to support the Climate Ready VISTA cohort. In 2024, a total of 7 VISTAs supported 5 key offices across state and county agencies including Hawai'i State Energy Office, Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority, University of Hawai'i Manoa Better Tomorrow Speaker Series and County of Kaua'i Office of Economic Development to support projects that benefit marginalized communities and increase community resilience to climate change. This year the commission received \$15 million in funding to support 10 new VISTA positions for key state and county offices for 2025.



Climate Ready VISTA Jenna and former VISTA Dante representing HGIA at the 2024 O'ahu Community Climate Fair

# Local and Global Policy Efforts

As a geographically isolated island chain, it is important for the Climate Commission to form connections within Hawai'i and beyond to tackle the global issue of climate change. This year the commission and its staff have focused on building relationships at all levels – from outreach to local communities, to working with counties, and attending state and national conferences – to share knowledge and work towards the common goal of being climate ready.

## State Conferences

Staff attended multiple state and national conferences this year to share the Commission's work and collaborate with other agencies. At Hawai'i State Climate Week in Honolulu, the Commission's Climate Action Program Manager presented to the audience on the Climate Action Pathways plan's methodology and development in a panel discussion. Staff also attended Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials to present current progress and the workplan for the commission's Climate Action Pathways. This conference provided an opportunity for staff to connect with planners from other counties and address challenges and potential solutions to issues such as housing, disaster recovery and delayed action due to bureaucracy.



CCMAC staff and VISTAs at Hawai'i Climate Week, March 2024



## National Conferences

Staff attended the Conveners Network meeting in Charleston, a national network for state agencies developing their climate action plans under the EPA's CPRG program. Staff also attended the several learning labs sponsored by the US Climate Alliance (USCA) on topics such as methane mitigation and Natural and Working Lands. Collaboration with USCA, a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors securing America's net-zero future by advancing state-led, high-impact climate action, has leveraged opportunities to advance climate action in the state.

## State Legislative Action

This year the commission tracked and supported a variety of climate change and environmental legislation by submitting testimony. Commission staff provided testimony in support of key legislative measures including adaptation pathways planning for sea level rise, a needs assessment to transition to a circular economy and an extended producer responsibility program, EV readiness for new state buildings, removing exemptions to expand the number of EV parking stalls available, and extending the state's energy efficiency goals from 2030 to 2045. In addition, commission staff coordinated testimony between departments and partners, and provided information and commentary to legislators.

## Climate Action Projects

### Mitigation

#### **Carbon Smart Land Management Pilot Program**

As reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing the capacity for natural and working lands to sequester GHGs are the primary pathways that climate change can be mitigated, the Climate Commission is committed to supporting initiatives that will lower emissions. This year, the Commission awarded \$1,000,000 in State funding to ten land managing grant recipients across the state who will employ best practices in land management to sequester carbon in natural in working lands they manage.

# Adaptation

## **Punalu'u Beach Park**

The Climate Commission is continuing its partnership with Hawai'i Sea Grant, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and the surrounding community to address the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion on Punalu'u Beach Park, O'ahu. In March, over 75 volunteers gathered at Punalu'u Beach Park for a dune restoration project, planting native plants on 950 square feet of shoreline to curb sand dune erosion.



Punalu'u Beach Park restoration volunteer event, March 2024.

The success of this planting project will serve as a model for future planting projects at Punalu'u Beach Park and other areas experiencing coastal erosion caused by sea level rise. Additionally, in April, DLNR in partnership with contractors published the Punalu'u Beach Restoration Feasibility Study detailing the options to manage impact of sea level rise, flooding and coastal erosion. Commission staff and partners have attended community meetings and events to share the results of the study and gather community input on their vision for the beach park moving forward.

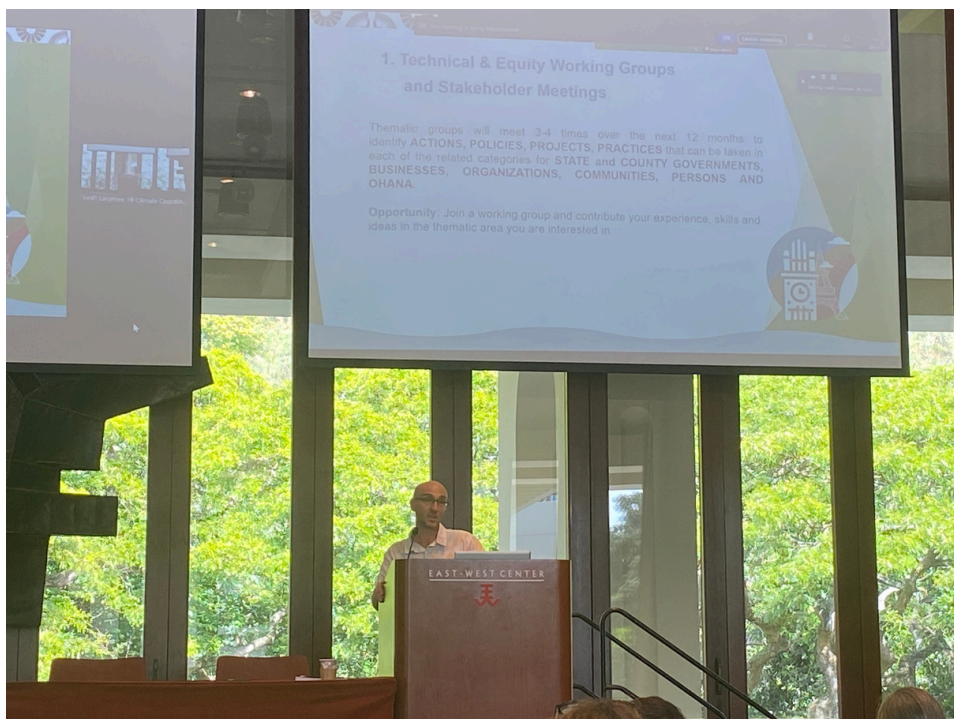
# Staff Initiatives

## Climate Action Program Manager

This year the Climate Action Program Manager managed and facilitated the process of bringing together members from multiple state agencies, counties, and communities to develop a Climate Action Pathway (CAP), for the State of Hawai'i.

### Technical Working Groups

As part of this role the Program Manager has been developing and leading several activities, projects and processes in 2024. The Program Manager began convening several technical working groups focused on sectors such as Farming, Ranching and Food System Decarbonization, Buildings Energy Efficiency, Circular and Wellbeing Economy, amongst others. Facilitating these working groups and synthesizing the discussions, resulted in actionable policies and programs to be included in the CAP. Written overview briefs of each sector were created and research instruments to gather information for the CAP were developed.



Climate Action Program Manager, Udi, presenting the development of the CAP and Hawai'i Climate Week, March 2024.

## Creative Engagement

This year the Program Manager created novel strategies for engagement with different wider community interest by developing an Artists Climate Action Residency program. Four artists were chosen from over 60 applicants statewide to participate in focus groups to learn more about the impacts of climate change. The artists will develop artwork in their chosen medium to be showcased at Capitol Modern in the later part of 2025 as one of the events for the 2025 The Year of Climate Action initiative.

## Grants Specialist

The Grants Specialist has been working with the community, counties, and state agencies to build relationships, identify funding opportunities, and identify community needs. The Grants to Project Bridge resource on the CCMAC website was a key focus area this year. Eighteen projects were submitted and the Grants Specialist has been working with these organizations to identify and engage partners and appropriate funding sources. The Grants and Climate Justice Specialist worked with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to submit a sustainable energy microgrid proposal to the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) technical assistance program, which offers coastal remote and island communities technical assistance for up to \$50,000. We were able to secure \$50,000 of funding through this application for a Maui DHHL community to explore green energy alternatives. The Grants Specialist has developed an internal grant tracker to share funding opportunities and



Grants Specialist, Jennifer, and Justice Specialist, Jonathan, team up on a Zoom call to work on the EITPP program.

compile resources to save time and organizational capacity. To date, over 120 grant opportunities have been identified. In addition, a few tools were developed including a project logic model and multiyear federal budget template which are available on the CCMAC website.

In conjunction with finding and aligning grant funding for organizations that have submitted to the Grants to Project Bridge, numerous resources and tools have been identified and developed to help streamline the work required for funding requests and reduce the burden on these organizations. Tools developed include a Project Logic Model to help identify key grant parameters, a multiyear budget template, and a list of free templates and other resources. In addition, the Grants Specialist has reached out to local philanthropic organizations to help partner non-profits with local funders and is assisting in the development of year-end funding appeals with non-profits in the grants to project bridge. These year-end appeals will help sustain these non-profits and fund climate-related projects.

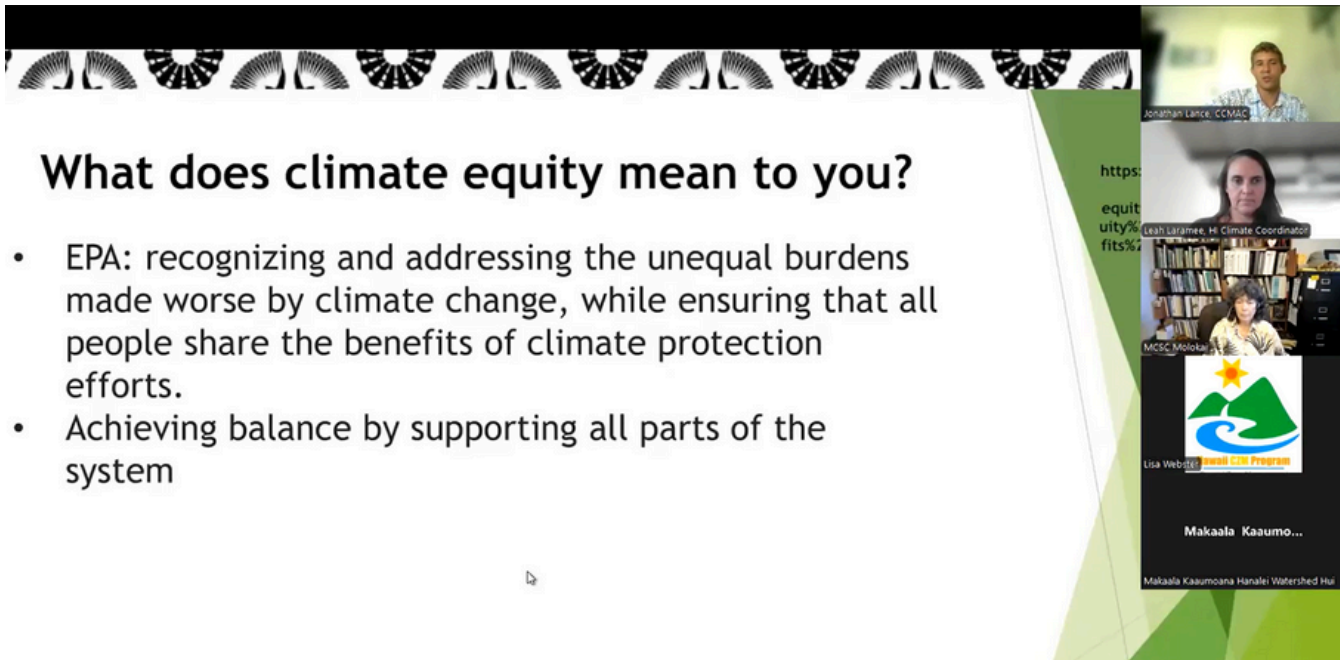
## **Climate Justice Specialist**

The Climate Justice Specialist coordinates with equity and environmental justice groups across the state to ensure that measures included in the CAP are addressing the impacts on disadvantaged and underserved communities equitably. These communities include LIDAC (Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities), ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed), Native Hawaiian, elderly, disabled, and other vulnerable communities. This year, the Climate Justice Specialist engaged with such disadvantaged communities to identify their needs and challenges in mitigation and adaptation to climate change hazards such as energy resilience, climate hazard exposure, disaster preparedness, resilience, workforce transition, community health, and transportation. They worked to increase involvement of community-based organizations and community members and leaders in the State's climate action planning processes. The Climate Justice Specialist identified opportunities for funding and technical assistance to help disadvantaged communities implement projects that build resilience to the threats of climate change.

### **Accurate Representation in Federal Datasets**

Accurate representation of Hawai'i's climate-vulnerable communities is essential for making equitable policy decisions and for securing funding

opportunities. This year the Climate Justice specialist worked with county, state, and federal agencies to improve climate vulnerability assessment tools for Hawai'i's communities, which currently lack the framework and resolution to accurately identify disadvantaged communities in Hawai'i that should be eligible for Justice40 funding. Additionally, the Climate Justice Specialist is working to coordinate the many vulnerability assessment tools into a clearinghouse that will increase access and ease of use of these tools for stakeholders who are applying for funding, developing projects, and planning mitigation and adaptation strategies. This work will also support the efforts of the Hawai'i Data Science Institute to create a comprehensive climate-vulnerability screening tool that integrates publicly available datasets into a novel software tool to easily create meaningful vulnerability assessments for Hawai'i's communities.



The image is a screenshot of a virtual meeting. At the top, there is a decorative banner with a repeating pattern of stylized fan-like shapes. Below the banner, the main title of the meeting is "What does climate equity mean to you?". To the left of the title is a bulleted list with two items. To the right, there is a vertical stack of video thumbnails. The top thumbnail shows Jonathan Lance, CCMAC. The middle thumbnail shows Leah Laramee, HI Climate Coordinator. The bottom thumbnail shows Lisa Webber, Hawaii CCM Program. Below the thumbnails is a logo for the Hawaii CCM Program, which features a green mountain, a blue wave, and a yellow sun. The text "Makaala Kaaumoana Hanalei Watershed Hui" is visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

## What does climate equity mean to you?

- EPA: recognizing and addressing the unequal burdens made worse by climate change, while ensuring that all people share the benefits of climate protection efforts.
- Achieving balance by supporting all parts of the system

Justice Specialist, Jonathan, leads the first virtual Climate Change Equity Hui, July 2024.

### Equity Working Group

The Climate Justice specialist conducts outreach and engagement efforts to bring together a diverse collection of agencies to address equity issues and identify key actions that will help vulnerable communities successfully build resilience and transition to a climate-smart economy. To this end, an equity working group of public, private, nonprofit, and community stakeholders labelled as the "Climate Change Equity Hui", was launched this year and is

now being hosted on a bi-monthly basis to identify important community needs and the most equitable ways to implement the CAP measures. This group identifies the most pressing climate equity issues and develops strategies to advocate for these needs in a culturally appropriate manner. This includes identifying policies to incentivize the transition to a climate-smart economy while reducing burdens on disadvantaged communities, including renewable energy access, affordable and resilient housing, disaster resilience, multimodal transportation, local food security, clean water access, etc.

## Community Outreach Specialists

This year, two community outreach specialists joined the CCMAC staff, one focusing on Maui Nui and one covering Oahu, Hawaii and Kaua'i islands.

### State and County Partnerships

CCMAC Outreach Specialists established an all islands outreach group connecting county and state partners on a monthly basis to discuss ongoing outreach initiatives and challenges. This partnership developed a Climate Action Outreach and Engagement Strategy, a 20-page document that guides all counties and the state in their outreach initiatives.

### Outreach Events

This year the CCMAC team has attended 40 outreach events covering all islands and facilitated over 2,000 interactions with residents on Kaua'i, Hawai'i island, Maui, Molokai, and O'ahu. This year the commission hosted two community climate fairs, one on O'ahu and one on Kaua'i. These fairs connected community members with over 20 organizations working in sustainability, clean energy and āina restoration to educate people on how to better participate in climate action. CCMAC hosted a climate week at the end of March in partner with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant and the East West Center. A two-day intensive conference highlighted the current climate change research done with the University of Hawaii. Additionally, a youth component allowed local youth to be part of the conference and learn from researchers. Climate Week also highlighted events across the islands for community members to participate in.



Outreach Specialist Bill presenting the grand prize winner a bicycle at O'ahu Community Climate Fair, October 2024.

Additionally, outreach specialists represented the commission at climate events around the islands including Moloka'i's Earth Day Fair, Kauai Earth Day and the State of Our Climate: Hawai'i and Moananuiākea Fifth National Climate Assessment Talks Fair on Maui. The state climate commission has also partnered with a sustainable film series at Honolulu Museum of Art Doris Duke Theatre, Better Tomorrow Speaker Series and other film series on Kaua'i and Maui.

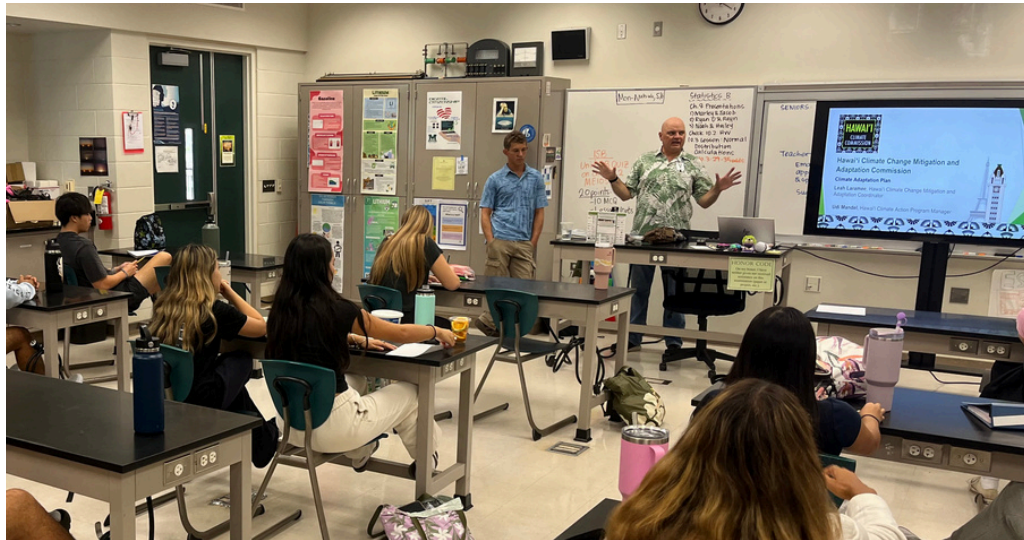
To engage youth in outreach, staff have also presented in classrooms across the state this year on a request basis; presenting a Powerpoint, discussing climate impacts that are happening and what students themselves can do. Outreach will continue to be a key component and driving initiative of the State Climate Commission. At each event, Outreach Specialists solicit community feedback on the Climate Action Pathways (CAP) report due at the end of 2025; as of October, over 250 comments have been received from the community.

In preparation for the 2025 legislative session, a Youth Climate Summit is being held at the state capitol in November 2024 to facilitate policy collaboration between youth climate advocates and state lawmakers.



The youth climate summit will also include a tabling event to connect interested youth with organizations that are working in the climate space and provide opportunities for future participation in restoration, legislation, volunteering and climate oriented careers.

Outreach Specialist, Bill, and Justice Specialists, Jonathan, presenting to a classroom.



## Virtual Outreach

The State Climate Commission maintains a website to connect the community with the latest events, initiatives and climate facts. This year, the website was updated to include the Priority Climate Action Plan, a film series of short films, and a calendar of events to raise awareness of ongoing climate, conservation and sustainability related events happening statewide. New webpages including a youth engagement webpage where various youth organizations across the state will be listed to engage youth in the climate sector are being developed and will be published in 2025. Additionally, the commission published an RFI to redesign the website which is expected to take place in 2025.

The State Climate Commission has continued outreach to the community through the monthly newsletter sent to over 1,200 subscribers state-wide. The number of subscribers has increased by 500 subscribers since 2023. Weekly social media posts are being shared on Instagram and Facebook to over 1,650 followers.

## Upcoming Initiatives

Looking forward to the Year of Climate Action in 2025, the commission is developing outreach programming including monthly themes, weekly focus areas, social media posts, community partnerships and events in preparation.

# Commission Member Initiatives

## The Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

passed HB1545 regarding adaptation pathways planning. The measure creates a process for OCCL to work with the community and create a broad approach to adaptation pathways. The committee also passed HB2081 which creates a green fee to fund climate adaptation. Following the 2024 legislative session, Chair Gabbard conducted outreach to constituents to identify stakeholder priorities. Chair Gabbard also co-hosted the Youth Climate Future Forum, engaging youth in the policy process.

## The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

remained focused on the topics of energy, clean transportation, and other climate mitigation proposals. Notable bills the committee passed this year include the appropriation of funds for an environmental assessment of geothermal resources (HB2105), transitioning to alternative fuels and biofuel (HB2767), and the Climate Impact Fee (HB2406). Following the 2024 legislative session, Chair Lowen conducted outreach and identified EV infrastructure and cesspools as priority areas for the 2025 legislative session. Chair Lowen also co-hosted the Youth Climate Future Forum to engage youth in the policy process.

## The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

published their interim and decarbonization reports. Both reports found that Hawai'i stands near the bottom of all states in its intensity of carbon outputs because the state is one of very few that still use petroleum as the primary power source for electricity generation. They reported these findings to the Governor as well as potential methods to offset this petroleum usage through renewables. Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) applied for many federal grants this year covering energy efficiency projects, energy resilience and GHG reduction. They received \$68 million for home energy efficiency rebates and \$18 million for building performance standards. This year HSEO worked on an energy strategy which will be published by the end of 2024 and began work on geothermal exploration and diesel replacement initiatives.

## The Hawai'i Tourism Authority

advocated for energy efficiency for hotels and the Convention Center and cleaner transportation. This year they worked with the Curator program where the Convention Center and hotels can earn an environmental badge for demonstrating sustainable practices. They also reviewed the guidance documents of the Impacts of Tourism on Climate Resilience at the county level.

## The Office of Hawaiian Affairs

was awarded a new grant which is pointed towards climate change adaptation and mitigation in agroforestry.

## The Department of Hawaiian Homelands

planning team has been gathering data and doing outreach for the Moloka'i Coastal Homelands Resilience Plan to be finalized in mid-2025. The Department is also looking for funding opportunities for statewide hazard adaptation implementation. The planning team was given an APA award for excellence in sustainability in recognition of their work on the Department's 2022 General Plan update, which is statewide. This year they worked on completing metrics on implementation for the plan. The department is working on incorporating mitigation and hazard resiliency to planning including hosting a wildfire symposium.

The department supported multiple climate related bills in the legislature this year including an appropriations bill which asked for additional funding to pursue geothermal initiatives and cesspool conversions. Many Hawaiian homesteads are in priority 1 red zones making it a priority in budget requests. Cesspool conversion and geothermal will be a policy priority for the 2025 legislative session.

The department continues to participate in Act 178, working to update vehicle fleets and implement photovoltaics in their buildings.

## The Department of Health

published the statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory final reports for 2020 and 2021. The department's contractor also submitted a draft of the 2022 GHG emissions inventory, preliminary updates to previous inventory years, and projections for future years which are currently under review. The final 2022 report is scheduled to be released in March 2025.

he department is working on a request for proposals for release in early

2025 to contract for statewide GHG emission inventories for 2023, 2024, and 2025. This year, the department focused on their Climate and Health Program. They made efforts to grow the climate and health working group by including researchers, public health providers, academics, etc. The department hosted its inaugural two-day Climate Change and Health Conference on October 23 and 24, bringing together over 125 participants to explore the complex ways climate change affects human health. Attendees included department staff and partners from public health, emergency response, and climate resiliency sectors. Key topics covered during the conference included heat-related illness, water quality, vector-borne diseases, food system impacts, mental health, and severe weather events. Summaries and presentation slides from each session are available on the department's Climate Change and Health portal: [health.hawaii.gov/heer/climate-and-health/](https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/climate-and-health/).

The department and its county partners concluded their 2024 Heat Awareness Campaign. Collaborating with each county's resilience program, the campaign shared over seven social media posts providing essential heat safety information tailored to Hawaii's diverse and vulnerable populations, such as kupuna, keiki, individuals with disabilities, as well as tips for high humidity and outdoor workers. Translated versions of the heat safety trifold and PDFs of each social media post can be found on the department's Climate Change and Health portal under the 'Heat Safety Tips' tab. The department-county partnership is now gearing up for its next campaign, which will focus on climate change and mental health. The department posted the initial statewide vulnerability assessment to its climate change and health website. The vulnerability assessment is a dynamic document and will be updated as new data becomes available.

## The City and County of Honolulu

passed two climate related City Council Ordinances including more explicit updates to both state- and county-level Special Management Area Rules and update to local shoreline setback ordinance. The City and County has made progress in their climate adaptation planning and implementation documents, including the Climate Ready O'ahu Guiding document, which has been adopted by the City Council and updating their 2020 Climate Action Plan under the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency. Additionally, this year the county received a state DLNR grant for an urban forestry program.

## The County of Maui

focused this year on learning how to recover from Lahaina and become more resilient to future potential disasters. Key actions have included adopting new shoreline rules, educating shoreline property owners of the risks of rebuilding, and offering land swaps and buyouts. Additionally, they are finalizing their Priority Climate Action, Resilience and Implementation Plan this year. The county has hosted a variety of community events to increase engagement including multiple film screening, and climate week. They are also partnering with the airport to plant native trees and raise awareness for the Maui native tree initiative and waterbottle filling stations.

## The County of Kaua'i

released a draft of their Climate Adaptation and Action Plan and solicited community feedback with a plan to release a final draft by December 2024. They tracked multiple climate adaptation measures this legislative session including many zoning reforms. They opposed a zoning reform relating to downzoning (SB2018).

## The County of Hawai'i

held a sustainability summit that resulted in a full-day event of collaboration to create new ideas for sustainability. This year they also worked to update codes, science-based shoreline setbacks, and incorporate climate planning and resilience into CIP projects. The county updated their General Plan, including a section on climate change impacts, and their Multi-hazard Plan this year. The general plan is moving through the adoption process and will be heard by the Windward Planning Commission. The Hawai'i County integrated climate action plan dashboard has a draft. 36% of their actions are completed or ongoing. Additionally, they worked on two mitigation projects including drafting an RFP for a county facilities condition assessment and energy management plan and submitting a proposal in partnership with DOT for clean heavy duty vehicle replacement. Finally the county is preparing a transition plan for the upcoming administration changes.

## The Department of Transportation

created a new Office of Climate Mitigation Adaptation & Culture, began work on a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, and is accepting applications for the inaugural Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council. HDOT furthered measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency in

Highways. HDOT Airports screened all 15 airports for climate risks, identified and mapped the top 8 climate risks, and is preparing to conduct a vulnerability assessment to create adaptation strategies. HDOT Airports is making steady progress towards achieving carbon accreditation level 3 for the 5 major airports. HDOT Harbors received a \$56.7M grant to construct a hydrogen fueling facility in Honolulu Harbor and purchase hydrogen-fueled tractors for use in the Sand Island Container Terminal which will replace diesel-powered equipment. HDOT Harbors also received a \$2.5M grant to complete an air emissions inventory baseline study for ocean going vessels, harbor craft and cargo handling equipment that operate in the state's nine commercial ports. HDOT Highways opened Electric Vehicle charging stations in Kahului Maui, and at Aloha Tower on O'ahu with plans to implement more in 2025 across the islands. HDOT Highways completed the Leeward Bikeway on O'ahu, and worked with biking and pedestrian related staff in the counties to map bike and pedestrian networks and identify gaps. In 2025, HDOT plans to map the transit networks and identify gaps.

## The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

progressed multiple projects focused on sea level rise adaptation and vulnerability under the Coastal Zone Management Program. This year they published an RFP and executed a contract for developing a standardized vulnerability assessment tool for state facilities in the sea level rise exposure area. This project is working to facilitate a consistent adaptation planning framework across the State and will be used to inform adaptation efforts and investments related to state-managed facilities. The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2025. Additionally, OPSD continued working on their analysis of managed retreat implementation strategies and coastal hazard and social vulnerability risks.

## The Department of Land and Natural Resources


Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands advocated for adaptation planning in response to climate change and sea level rise. They developed projects for coastal erosion including a project on Kahoolawe to expand dune restoration. Robust dunes can be formed by planting native plants to replace invasive plants. They are partnering with Honolulu County to do dune restoration at Kailua Beach Park. The department is also working on restoration on the north shore of Kaua'i. Finally, the department is partnering with Sea Grant for a dune restoration program that can support non-profits. The department also received funding for watershed management and planting of native trees.

# Next Steps: 2025 Year of Climate Action

**Entering 2025 and the halfway mark of the ‘critical decade’ the Commission is committed to catalyzing climate action more rapidly than ever before. This year, the commission has been laying the groundwork for the Year of Climate Action initiative to be launched in 2025.**

## Climate Action Programming

This initiative will partner with the Office of Governor Green, launching in January with the Governor’s proclamation declaring 2025 the Year of Climate Action. Each month and week will focus on a different human dimension of climate change offering information and events to encourage the community to engage with climate issues. The commission has developed a calendar of monthly themes and weekly sub-themes to focus the Year of Climate Action programming. Each week,

<p><b>January</b> <b>Climate 101</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Governor’s Proclamation, Hawaii’s Goals</p>	<p><b>February</b> <b>Equity</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Energy Access, Exposure &amp; Recovery, Workforce</p>	<p><b>March</b> <b>Resilience</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Sea Level Rise, Climate Disasters, Wildfires</p>
<p><b>April</b> <b>Culture</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Earth Day</p>	<p><b>May</b> <b>Affordability</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Transportation Choices, Insurance, Energy</p>	<p><b>June</b> <b>Waste</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Circular Economy, Compost, Climate Fair</p>
<p><b>July</b> <b>‘Āina</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Land Use, Biodiversity, Cultural Connection</p>	<p><b>August</b> <b>Health</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Department of Health Climate &amp; Health Program</p>	<p><b>September</b> <b>Water</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Conservation, Ocean, DLNR Day Without Water</p>
<p><b>October</b> <b>Food</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Emergency Supply, Food Production</p>	<p><b>November</b> <b>Keiki &amp; Kūpuna</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Youth Summit, Policy Engagement</p>	<p><b>December</b> <b>Community</b> </p> <p>Focus Areas: Climate Week, Walkability, Community Solar</p>

the commission will share social media posts with information related to the weekly sub theme in collaboration with relevant community partner organizations. Additionally, each month will have at least one in person event to build community and tie into the theme. Events include climate fairs, film festivals, an art show, and a youth policy summit.

### Community Partnerships

In addition to the partnership with the Governor's office, the commission has identified and invited a variety of organizations working within or adjacent to the climate sector to participate as partners in this initiatives. Established partnerships include the Department of Health who will lead Health month and the UH Manoa environmental filmmaking class who will create films for multiple monthly themes. These partner organizations will help the Year of Climate Action initiative reach a wider audience and contribute sector specific expertise to our monthly and weekly themed programs.