

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-01

(Accelerating Hawai'i's Transition Toward 100 Percent Renewable Energy)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, in order to elevate the wellness and resilience of our people, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, hereby declare and order as follows:

WHEREAS, Hawai'i has recognized the Constitutional rights of its people to a clean and healthful environment consistent with article XI, section 9 of the Hawai'i Constitution, including the right to a life-sustaining climate system, and has affirmative public trust obligations under section 1 to conserve and protect "Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources for the benefit of present and future generations," including those related to protection of air and other trust resources affected by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's Legislature has recognized climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawai'i's public health, safety, natural resources, economic vitality, and welfare of the State's people and environment thereby warranting preemptive and protective action; and

WHEREAS, recent analysis by the Hawai'i State Energy Office reaffirms the findings of previous studies, highlighting the need for a diverse renewable energy resource portfolio, and highly efficient and reliable state-of-the-art technology to best serve residents and businesses with affordable energy that safeguards our environment for future generations; and

WHEREAS, electricity costs to ratepayers have nearly tripled since 2001 and electricity costs remain a concern for Hawai'i residents and businesses, and the

integration of cost-effective, renewable generation can stabilize and potentially lower electricity costs;

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is home to the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), which in its fulfillment of mission to protect and defend the United States, its territories and interests during a time of growing geopolitical risks within the USINDOPACOM area of responsibility, requires resilient, reliable and affordable electricity, consistent with the Department of Defense's goal of promoting energy security through locally-available renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i has long been recognized as a leader in adopting policies that advance clean energy and decarbonization, and significant progress has been made by the electric utilities and energy stakeholders in achieving those objectives, including all renewable targets to date; and

WHEREAS, the financial health of electric utilities, independent power producers, and other private companies underpins the safety and reliability of our electricity system, and must be maintained in order to achieve the state's energy transition; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory frameworks, interconnection requirements, permits, and tariffs governing renewable energy projects are essential to successful deployment; and

WHEREAS, distributed solar energy has been, and will continue to be, a leading contributor to the state's sustainability and resiliency goals by providing critical power for homes and businesses, with more than 118,000 utility customers having installed distributed solar; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i’s level of rooftop solar adoption the highest per capita in the nation, and Hawai‘i has been cited as an international leader in the reliable integration of distributed energy resources on its electric grids; and

WHEREAS, distributed energy resources can provide the most direct access to the clean energy transition for residents and businesses, especially low- and moderate-income residents, Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed residents, and those living on Hawaiian Home Lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, pursuant to my authority under the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai‘i—including, but not limited to, article IX, section 8 and article XI, section 9 of the Hawai‘i Constitution, and sections 225-P and 269-6, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes—do hereby declare collective actions to accelerate the State’s decarbonization, stabilize and reduce energy costs, lower the State’s carbon footprint, fortify energy security, and gain access to capital for the energy transition, and do hereby order the following:

1. It shall be the policy of the state to accelerate Hawai‘i’s energy transition to achieve 100% renewable electricity production in the counties of Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, and Maui by 2035, and achieve 70% reduction of O‘ahu’s greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the electricity sector by 2035, using 2005 as a baseline. To provide the lowest cost to ratepayers, this requires collective action and shared accountability to maximize end-use efficiency, demand response, and fuel switching to balance new renewable energy projects with affordability, reliability, land use, and resilience.

2. It is the policy of the state to maximize distributed solar energy paired with battery storage, with the goal of dispatchable solar generation on every rooftop and parking area on land constrained O'ahu by 2045. Before 2030, the state shall facilitate the addition of at least 50,000 new distributed renewable energy installations (10,000 installations per year), focused on delivering clean energy benefits to low- and moderate-income residents through the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority and its programs. In support of that goal, all State agencies and authorities responsible for permitting and interconnection within the State shall work with the electric utilities, counties, and other stakeholders to establish programs and enact policies to expedite these installations, to include without limitation:
 - a. Establishing programs for same-day online permit issuance of all single-family residential homes, self-certification permitting for all townhome projects twenty kilowatts and under, and professional self-certification for permitting behind-the-meter customer-sited solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency measures for commercial and multifamily and condominium projects; and
 - b. Excluding properly installed customer-sited distributed energy resource (DER) infrastructure from valuation calculations and exempting them from No-Rise/No-Impact certifications under the Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program guidelines.
3. State agencies shall collaborate with electric utilities to harden, diversify, and enhance electric transmission and distribution systems necessary to achieve

renewable electricity targets as quickly as practicable, including in the designation and development of Renewable Energy Zones.

4. Consistent with its responsibilities in section 269-91, et seq., Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Public Utilities Commission is urged to:

- a. Provide direct bill savings and other benefits to communities that host large-scale energy generation, prioritizing bill savings for low- and moderate-income households and those living on Hawaiian Home Lands;
- b. Maximize the use of distributed clean, renewable energy resources across the state to improve resilience and energy security, with a particular focus on maximizing DERs in Public Safety Power Shutoff areas, as well as on every rooftop and as canopies over parking lots and shared spaces on land-constrained O'ahu;
- c. Eliminate redundancies and inefficiencies in interconnecting independent power producers to the grid, enabling the safe and rapid addition of modern renewable energy generation into the grid, including but not limited to implementing appropriate rules for the creation of Renewable Energy Zones.
- d. Investigate how battery storage can be added to older distributed solar systems to increase their ability to dispatch renewable energy;
- e. Expand energy service markets, streamline procurement of decarbonized energy resources, and create a grid that enables

distributed resources to provide grid services with appropriate compensation for the benefits they provide to the grid;

- f. Develop a timeline for the Hawaiian Electric Company to demonstrate reduced energy generation costs, harden vulnerable distribution infrastructure, and outline a path to financial stability for the company;
- g. Develop and publish a timeline for acting on the priorities listed above within 60 days.

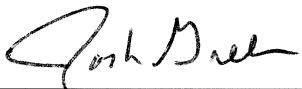
5. Consistent with section 196-71, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Hawai'i State Energy Office shall:
 - a. Undertake analysis with input from the Department of Taxation, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, and the Department of Transportation to include aviation fuel in the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax (Hawai'i's barrel tax), with the purpose of providing lower cost and lower carbon energy options for low- and moderate-income residents while supporting the achievement of the state's climate and clean energy goals;
 - b. Develop recommendations on how to decarbonize the energy sources specifically for the island of O'ahu and incorporate these recommendations into the state Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
 - c. Coordinate with the private sector to analyze and reliably maximize the deployment of dispatchable, distributed inverter-based resources on the electricity grid in order to minimize the fuel demands of the power sector and maximize local renewable energy;

- d. Explore how open energy data positions Hawai‘i to support local innovators and enable more efficient markets that attract global innovators;
- e. Evaluate options for decarbonizing distributed electricity backup power assets for commercial and industrial buildings and critical infrastructure, focusing on the role of, but not limited to, batteries, fuel cells, and hydrogen to displace standby generators;
- f. Address energy burden for low- and moderate-income residents, specifically asset limited income constrained and employed households, those residing in disadvantaged communities, and those living on Hawaiian Home Lands, by developing Building Performance Standards for large existing buildings and “Zero Energy Ready Home” energy codes for new single-family homes, which can slow the code cycle and reduce the cost of code compliance;
- g. Propose updates to water resource characterization permits to provide efficiency and clarity in the process for safe geothermal and carbon sequestration resource characterization research to achieve a broadly acceptable geothermal deployment strategy for the state that collects and incorporates community aspirations and concerns—particularly from the Native Hawaiian community—into the resource characterization process;
- h. Support all state and local agencies to the extent possible in developing adequate training and apprenticeship programs to ensure a

qualified local candidate for every clean energy job inclusive of utility workers.

6. Consistent with section 37-43, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Department of Budget and Finance shall prioritize budget requests and expenditure approvals for Capital Improvement Projects that include energy efficiency by design, on-site renewable energy, and workplace charging for electric vehicles, and shall ensure that any proposed budget for a facility adequately funds those investments in emissions reductions by the state.
7. As required by section 196-1.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, "all agencies shall provide priority handling and processing for all state permits required for renewable energy projects," and shall rely on industry certifications to expedite review when feasible. Further, consistent with section 171-95, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, among others, all executive state departments and agencies of the State are directed to proactively facilitate the maintenance of existing and development of new renewable energy projects and Renewable Energy Zones on state lands through active support for leasing and permitting, provided that the development of those projects complies with existing labor laws and the terms set forth in Administrative Directive No. 24-01, respects Hawai'i's cultural heritage and adequately conserves the State's habitats and natural resources. The Hawai'i State Energy Office shall assess the compliance of the State's departments and agencies with this requirement and shall provide a report of its assessment to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public.

Done at the State Capitol, Honolulu,
State of Hawai'i, this 27th day of
January, 2025.



Josh Green, M.D.
Governor of Hawai'i

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Anne E. Lopez
Attorney General