

# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Date: March 14, 2024

To: Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer  
Hawai'i State Energy Office

**RE: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07 : Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition, "Hawai'i Coalition Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Application"**

Mark Glick,

This letter serves as a formal Letter of Intent on behalf of the County of Kaua'i Office of Economic Development (OED) to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a Coalition with key state and county agencies. The purpose of the Coalition is to submit a statewide application for US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants. In doing so, the Coalition aims to strengthen our statewide application by demonstrating a regional, collaborative approach to mitigating climate change impacts across our state. Along with OED, the Coalition partners include:

- State of Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Hawai'i State Energy Office;
- State of Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission;
- City and County of Honolulu, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency;
- County of Maui, Office of Innovation and Sustainability; and,
- County of Hawai'i Island, Department of Research and Development

The draft MOA has undergone thorough review and approval by the County's Administration and County Attorney. We are currently awaiting an MOA approved by the State's Attorney General and intend to request County Council review for final approval.

Within the statewide application, the County of Kaua'i proposed two projects:

## 1. Complete Streets Project

This project addresses the GHG emissions generated by on-road transportation in Hawai'i, which is the largest contributor to GHG emissions in Hawai'i, accounting for 38% of the State's total emissions and 27% of emissions specifically on Kaua'i. The project aims to make areas more walkable and bikeable, thus reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

The Complete Street projects encompasses two road segments in the eastern and central portions of the island. In Lihu'e, the full length of Halekō Road (0.6 miles) will include resurfacing and reconstructing the pavement as needed, widening the roadway to construct on-road bike lanes, constructing a sidewalk on at least one side of the road where no sidewalk exists, crosswalk additions, intersection and turn lane improvements, including a roundabout at the intersection of Halekō Road and Pua Loke Street, and a possible roundabout at the intersection of Rice Street and Halekō Road.

The second road segment in Kapa'a, along Kawaihau Road, from Hau'a'ala Road to Ka'apuni Road (2.1 miles), consists of pavement resurfacing and reconstruction as needed, widened and/or new sidewalks, shoulder widening, intersection improvements including left turn lanes and crosswalks, and addition of bus stops.

The Complete Streets Project will be managed by the Public Works Department, Engineering Division in collaboration with the County's Transportation Agency, Office of Economic Development, and Planning Department.

**2. Energy Efficiency Upgrades Project**

This initiative focuses on conducting energy audits and implementing energy efficiency upgrades for three groups of County facilities: 1. The Lihu'e Civic Center, 2. Fire Stations, 3. Neighborhood Centers. The Civic Center is our third largest electricity user with a high potential for greenhouse gas reduction. The Fire Stations are low-medium energy users and are an ideal candidate for improvements given their continuous occupancy 24 hours a day. Retrofits for Neighborhood Centers places us in a great position to foster community resiliency with the potential for siting future resilience hubs in these sites.

OED will take on the role of project manager and oversee the implementation of retrofits and upgrades wherever feasible. To facilitate this, OED will collaborate closely with the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) and leverage their commercial energy audit program, Commercial Retrofit Program, and Commercial Equipment Replacement programs to pursue rebates for installation. The project scope includes exploring upgrades such as interior and exterior lighting to LED, installation of window treatments like film, enhancements to refrigeration, hot water heaters, air conditioning systems, and other improvements recommended by the energy audit.

In conclusion, the County of Kaua'i Office of Economic Development intends to join the Coalition and proposes these projects in the statewide application. If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Na B', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nalani Brun  
Director  
Office of Economic Development