Climate Framework and Laws  New in 2019, Act 122 reorganized and elevated the status of the State Energy Office to endorse the concept that strong policy-making on climate change and renewable energy actions is essential for Hawaii to meet its targets. The Energy Office is charged with a full energy portfolio, including clean transportation and Hawaii’s decarbonization goals. Act 15 (2018) set a greenhouse gas (GHG) target of carbon neutrality by 2045 (“to sequester more atmospheric carbon and GHGs than emitted”) and established a Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force to align the state’s clean energy and carbon sequestration efforts with climate initiative goals, among other tasks. Act 32 (2017) enshrined the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement as the framework for Hawaii to pursue climate change planning. The Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative Act (2014) acknowledged climate change as the paramount challenge of this century and established what is now the State Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Act 286 (2012) adopted a statewide climate adaptation policy and added said policy to the State Planning Act.

Power Generation  The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) is a framework of statutes and regulations supported by a diverse group of stakeholders committed
to Hawaii’s clean energy future. In 2015, Hawaii became the first state to adopt a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS), requiring electric utilities to generate all of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2045.

**Energy Efficiency** Hawaii’s Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard requires 4,300 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity-use reductions statewide by 2030. The Ka Hei Department of Education Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Program integrates energy efficiency and sustainability improvements into facility upgrades and student education through a combination of energy efficiency measures, clean energy generation, and a comprehensive sustainability program. HRS 196-9 targets energy efficiency and environmental standards for state facilities, as well as for vehicles and fuel. Hawaii passed legislation in 2019 that adopts energy and water efficiency standards for five products sold in the state starting January 1, 2021 and not currently covered at the federal level, including computers, faucets, showerheads, spray sprinklers, and certain fluorescent lamps.

**Transportation** Act 144 (2019) allows agencies to contract for vehicle procurement or associated capital investments in charging or fueling infrastructure similar to facility-based energy services contracts. In 2018, Hawaii’s Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission recognized that ground transportation contributes significantly to Hawaii’s share of GHG emissions and announced its support for mechanisms to reduce overall vehicle miles traveled; converting all remaining vehicle-based ground transportation to renewable, zero-emission fuels and technologies; and putting a price on carbon as the most-effective single action that will achieve Hawaii’s ambitious and necessary emissions-reduction goals. The Commission supports the need to transform public fleets through electrification, renewable fuels, modeshare, and supporting infrastructure development/deployment. Hawaii’s State Alternate Fuel Standards require 20% of highway fuel demand to be provided by alternate fuels by 2020 and 30% by 2030, while state agencies are required to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles and include projected fuel costs in life-cycle cost-benefit analysis. HRS 103D-412 directs all state and county entities when purchasing new light-duty motor vehicles, to look for vehicles with reduced dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

**Resilience** Hawaii’s Climate Commission provides direction, facilitation, coordination, and planning among state and country agencies, federal agencies, and other partners about climate change mitigation and resilience strategies. The Commission issued a series of recommendations and finalized a mission statement in September 2018 to help guide Hawaii’s response to the impacts of climate change, including urging counties to incorporate a 3.2-foot (1 meter) sea-level rise exposure area into their development plans and requesting all new development, redevelopment, and modifications be directed away from beach areas. In addition, HB 2106 HD3 calls for the Environmental Council to adopt rules for all environmental assessments and impact statements to include consideration of sea-level rise.

**Climate Finance** The Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax (aka Barrel Tax) is a $1.05 tax per imported barrel of petroleum products that discourages fossil-fuel consumption and funds environmentally friendly initiatives. The Green Energy Market Securitization Program is a sustainable green financing initiative that provides low-cost capital to finance over 44 megawatts (MW) of clean energy improvements for as many as 30,000 Hawaii consumers who might otherwise have difficulty obtaining financing. Hawaii’s Climate Commission established a working group to discuss a framework for equity issues related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, including climate change-related financing.

**Natural and Working Lands** The Sustainable Hawaii Initiative sets the following goals for Hawaii: a) double food production by 2020, b) implement Hawaii’s interagency biosecurity plan by 2026, c) protect 30% of Hawaii’s priority watersheds, d) effectively manage 30% of Hawaii’s marine areas, and e) achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045. HB 1986 creates a framework for a carbon offset program that allows for carbon credits through global carbon sequestration protocols, which will address carbon sequestration through forest restoration. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife has launched a forest carbon sequestration program, which involves restoring the native forest of two areas—Kahikinui/Nakula Forest and Pu’u Mali Forest—while generating independently certified carbon offsets.