



Dear Hawaii Green Amendment Partners and Activists,

We wanted to circle up with everyone about our 2023 Hawaii Green Amendment effort.

While the Hawaii Green Amendment did not advance all the way through the legislative process, the foundation towards success continued to build.

### **So what progress did we make?**

Senator Mike Gabbard was joined by Senator Stanley Chang as lead sponsor in the Senate. Senator Karl Rhoads also came to the fore as a powerful champion when, during a senate committee hearing, he eloquently challenged the Attorney General for being in opposition to this positive powerful tool for environmental protection and justice. (See Senator Rhoads' remarks here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikyrDoRYSSY> at 1:08:09)

Representative Amy Perrusso, lead legislative champion in the House, was joined by a strong coalition including Representatives Terez Amato, Cory Chun, Elle Cochran, Sonny Ganaden, Cedric Asuega Gates, Natalia Hussey-Burdick, Nicole Lowen, Lisa Marten, Rose Martinez, Mahina Poepoe, Adrian Tam, and Justin Woodson.

Over the course of the year, grassroots support also grew. Fifteen organizations are now proactively in support of the Hawaii Green Amendment, including:

- 350 Hawaii
- Climate Protectors Hawaii
- Community Coalition Kauai
- Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party
- Green Amendments for the Generation
- Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action
- Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition
- Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition
- Independent Energy
- Kauai Climate Action Coalition
- Kauai Women's Caucus
- Our Revolution Hawaii
- Surfrider Foundation
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- Zero Waste Hawai'i Island
- Zero Waste Kauai

During the legislative session, the Green Amendment was voted with strong support through 3 committees including the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (vote count was 5 to 0 with 2 excused), the House Committee on Water and Land (vote count was 8 to 0), and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (vote count was 4 to 1). That is powerful progress!

Unfortunately, in the end the Green Amendment was stymied by a misuse of the process with one committee chair refusing to schedule the Green Amendment for a hearing and vote. Without being officially heard by this committee, the Green Amendment was procedurally stopped in its tracks.

Still, strong committee votes, growing grassroots support, and growing commitment from the legislators, means we are well positioned for progress in 2024. It is just going to be important for us to keep building upon this strong foundation.

We hope you will stay optimistic and engaged as we move forward to secure a constitutional right of all Hawaiians to a clean, safe and healthy environment that will strongly compliment the already powerful constitutional trustee obligation recognized in Article XI Section 1 of the state constitution, and that will ensure the ultimate power for environmental protection lies not with the legislators, but instead with the people!

With Warm Regards,

*Maya K. van Rossum, Founder Green Amendments For The Generations*

*Sherry Pollack, co-founder, 350Hawaii*

*Proud Members of the Hawaii Green Amendment collaboration*