

**HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WORKING GROUP  
ACTION PLAN**

**TEN POINT PLAN POINT # 3  
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Hawaii**

**Goal(s):**

- To assist the State and energy stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels as called for in Act 234 adopted and signed into law in 2007
- To identify and promote greenhouse gas emission reduction measures that optimize global benefits and minimize the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emission controls on the state economy with particular attention to impacts on low-income residents.

**Background:** The Hawaii State Legislature adopted Act 234, which calls for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii to levels at or below estimated emissions for 1990 by January 1, 2020. Act 234 calls for the Department of Health and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to update the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions by December 31, 2008. The law also establishes a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force that is charged with developing a work plan and regulatory scheme to achieve the maximum practically and technically feasible and cost effective reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to achieve the emissions limit established by the Act.

Act 234 calls on the Task Force to make recommendations on options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions including:

- Direct emissions reduction measures;
- Alternative compliance mechanisms;
- Market-based compliance measures; and
- Potential monetary and non-monetary incentives.

Act 234 also calls on the Task Force to investigate analytical tools, economic models, and other scientific methods to evaluate the total potential costs and total potential economic benefits of plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the state's economy, environment, and public health.

The greenhouse gas emission reduction measures identified in Act 234 could have extensive impacts on Hawaii's economy. Several mainland states are currently evaluating the impacts of emissions reductions and market-based compliance measures on their greenhouse gas emissions and on their economies. The United States Congress is also contemplating such measures. Therefore, it is imperative that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Task Force and the Departments of Health and Business, Economic Development and Tourism provide the Legislature and the Governor with solid environmental and economic analyses of the costs and benefits of alternatives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Objectives and Desired Outcomes:**

- To provide guidance and analytical support to the Greenhouse Gas Emission Task Force to assess policy options for greenhouse gas emission reductions;
- To work with the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Task Force to develop recommendations to the Legislature on greenhouse gas emissions control policies that will meet the targets set forth in Act 234 and minimize the negative impacts of emissions controls
  - To assess the feasibility and costs and benefits of possible implementation measures including: limiting stack emissions of greenhouse gases on power plants, a carbon tax levied on oil imports and/or at the local refineries, cap and trade systems managed locally, and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - To evaluate policies developed and implemented by other states and regions and impact assessments of those policies;
  - To assess options for national legislation being considered by the US Congress and the potential impacts of such legislation on state policies and the Hawaii economy

## **Indicators / Metrics:**

- Completion of an assessment of existing greenhouse gas emissions data
- Compilation and development of data identifying 1990 and current levels of Hawaii greenhouse gas emissions by source
  - Completion of an initial assessment of policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Development of methods to project greenhouse gas emissions, reduction costs and economic impacts for various possible reduction measures and policies
- Identification of policy, technical and regulatory issues associated with greenhouse gas reduction regulations
  - Development of recommendations to the Legislature on additional analytical work required to fully assess policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii

## **Specific Forum Actions:**

Specific Forum actions will be determined based on the process and actions of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Task Force. Interim actions include:

- Monitoring the formation and actions of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Task Force
- Monitoring actions of stakeholders, stakeholder groups, governmental agencies or other entities involved in the analysis, regulation or implementation of greenhouse gas measures and policies.