



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. Announces Support for Islands-led Global Initiative for Climate Solutions
Islands Leading the Transition Toward a Green, Resilient and Equitable Future

HONOLULU – U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry announced the United States' support for the [Local2030 Islands Network](#) during a virtual event in support of the Leaders Summit on Climate Change hosted by President Biden this week.

"The (U.S.) Department of State, NOAA, and Department of Energy, are supporting the Local2030 Islands Network, an innovative and peer-to-peer network that connects U.S. islands with our fellow islands around the world on local solutions and common challenges." U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry

The Local2030 Islands Network brings together a diverse set of major and emerging island economies – nations, states and communities – from all regions of the world. Through their support the U.S. [announced](#) their commitment to partnering with small islands in their efforts to combat the climate crisis in ways that reflect their unique cultures and development challenges by building resilience in the face of a changing climate.

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm further reinforced U.S. support to building island resilience with a focus on community-driven solutions appropriate to island-specific cultures and development challenges.

The Network, managed by [Hawaii Green Growth Local2030 Hub](#) and the [Global Island Partnership](#), includes U.S. islands Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Hawaii Governor David Ige joined the event to discuss the leadership of islands globally on energy and climate, and highlighted the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawaii's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework grounded in local values. In his remarks, Hawaii Governor David Ige encouraged island leaders and island jurisdictions to become involved in the innovative Network.

"American islands are stepping up together, with islands like Guam and Puerto Rico joining the Network in addition to the Marshall Islands and other island economies." Hawaii Governor David Ige

Through the Global Island Partnership, the Network will connect to existing leadership from islands around the world including the [Micronesia Challenge](#), [Caribbean Challenge Initiative](#), and the European BEST Challenge.

"We recently celebrated the success of the Micronesia Challenge and will be joining the Local2030 Islands Network." President David Kabua, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Local2030 Islands Network serves as a central resource for island-led solutions and links islands in new ways to address sustainability, climate change and clean energy issues. The U.S. Department of State will support this unique island-led partnership and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will work with the network and other

partners to enhance the capacity of island nations to integrate climate data and information, and apply effective coastal and marine resource management strategies to support sustainable development. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Low Emissions Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) will provide technical assistance, and support peer learning via island communities of practice.

The U.S. support of the network emphasizes the important role that U.S. islands can play in surfacing solutions and working with other islands as peers. Hawaii was recognized in 2019 as a U.N. Local2030 Hub - a center of excellence for SDGs - for its innovative work on local sustainability and resilience. Hawaii also pledged the first U.S. carbon neutrality target to decarbonize its energy sector by 2045. In 2019, Guam released the Guam Green Growth Action Framework, a 10-year strategy aligned with the SDGs. Other island members and partners of the network include the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Bonaire, Ireland, Curacao, and the UN Foundation.

The April 20th virtual event was hosted by the countries of the Friends of the Ocean and Climate and supported by the United Nations Foundation and Ocean Conservancy. It featured remarks from 13 world leaders, including U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry. The event included global leadership, actions, and commitments from diverse island communities to advance ocean-based climate solutions and the Paris Agreement. *A recording of the event and complete list of speakers can be found [here](#).*

NOTE:

White House Fact Sheet can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-president-bidens-leaders-summit-on-climate/>

To watch the recording of the event, please visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJArCX7t1U4>

B-roll, images, and speaker quotes can be accessed via the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JdQ_GNvZ_RlrY3stXDK88eE_IfyJO8vF?usp=sharing

To learn more about the Local2030 Islands Network, please visit this link:

<https://www.islands2030.org/>, [Link to 2-pager](#)

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Additional Quotes

Hon. Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy:

"To include those in the Local2030 Islands Network, which is already working to advance community-driven energy solutions, to make the islands more resilient, we'll work with all partners, from the Caribbean to the Pacific, to craft climate action strategies that center their cultures and their own development challenges."

Ambassador Elizabeth Cousens, President & CEO of UN Foundation

"Islands nations are on the front line of threats from climate change and are true leaders in pioneering solutions to protect people and planet. We applaud U.S. support for this critical initiative to deepen and connect local island solutions and leverage their expertise for the benefit of us all."

Hon. Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland

"We are members of the Local 2030 Islands Network, which is the world's first global island-led network devoted to advancing the UN SDGS through locally driven culturally informed solutions that build island resilience in food, water and energy systems."

Hon. Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam

"As a founding member of the Local2030 Islands Network and an adopter of the concept of green growth, I implore other island leaders to join this undertaking to accelerate our progress for a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future."

Mr. Ron Benioff, LEADS GP Executive Director and NREL International Program Manager

"The National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the LEADS Global Partnership are excited to partner with the Local 2030 Islands Network in providing support to and peer exchange across islands on pathways, policies, and technical solutions for scaling up clean energy adoption. These island clean energy transitions will drive inclusive economic growth, improve resilience to climate change, and serve as models for paths toward net zero emission systems."

Hon. Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator - Hawaii:

"In Hawaii, we know the consequences of climate change because we see them every day. The investments announced today will bolster the Local2030 Islands Network's ability to foster international island collaboration across government, business, and civil society sectors to address these consequences and advance a green growth recovery for islands and other communities. In partnership with the State Department, DOE, and NOAA, we can bring new resources to islands across the world to achieve Sustainable Development Goals."

Hon. Ed Case, U.S. Congressman - Hawaii:

"My state of Hawaii continues to be among our nation's leaders in the fight against climate change with a commitment to a sustainable and resilient future. In 2017, the adoption of a state law made Hawaii the first in the country to implement the goals of the Paris Climate Accord."

Hon. Kaiuli'i Kahele, U.S. Congressman - Hawaii:

"Building a sustainable future begins with a collective commitment toward advancing climate goals that foster global recovery and resiliency. The Local2030 Islands Network will work to do just that. In Hawaii, the climate crisis leaves our coastal communities vulnerable to storm surges and flooding. Just last month I visited with residents in Honolulu, Maui, and Kauai counties who experienced devastating flood waters that destroyed their homes and property. In some cases, major roadways were rendered impassable. These real and present dangers posed by climate change are why I support a green growth recovery model, which draws upon tools, skills, and inspiration fostered from our partnerships with other islands, communities and federal agencies. I will continue to advocate for programs that promote healthy and sustainable living for all communities throughout Hawaii and across the country."

