



## 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard for Hawaii Talking Points

By adopting a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 100% by 2050 with interim milestones, the state of Hawaii will become a leader in one of the, if not the, most important global movements of this century.

Just a decade ago, 100% renewable energy targets may have been considered radical. But they have become cutting edge, as the economics of renewable energy technologies have become more attractive, and the problems of depending on conventional energy have become more magnified.

On every continent in the world, there are now nations, regions, cities, businesses or institutions that are committed to, achieving, and even surpassing 100% renewable energy targets in at least the electricity sector.

For example, the country of Scotland is on track to achieve its mandated target of 100% renewable power by 2020, and already last year, generated the equivalent of 98% of household electricity demand with local renewable sources. Denmark by federal law must reach 100% renewable energy in all sectors by 2050. Dozens of regions and towns throughout Europe have similar goals, with several having already met or gone beyond them.<sup>1</sup>

In North America, several cities and counties from coast to coast on the mainland are committed to procuring 100% renewable electricity within the next decade, including Marin County, San Francisco, Lancaster, and Palo Alto in California, Georgetown, Texas, and East Hampton, New York.

Burlington, Vermont has already reached 100% renewable electricity procurement from local sources, and Greensburg, Kansas already exports a surplus of renewable power to neighboring towns.

The state of Vermont has created a plan for reaching 90% renewable energy by 2050.

These are just a few examples.

By passing SB 623, Hawaii would be at the forefront of this emerging international trend by becoming the first state in the U.S. to set a 100% renewable power target that is backed by state law.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the examples cited in this document, please refer to the Renewables 100 Policy Institute's Go 100% Renewable Energy project: [www.go100percent.org](http://www.go100percent.org)



Hawaii would also be the most populated set of islands in the world with an independent grid to establish a 100% renewable electricity goal.

As such a trailblazer, the state will have great challenges. But it will also have the great opportunity to become a global pioneer and to be a unique living laboratory of cutting edge energy solutions, which will not only provide critical information to countless others, but also attract research, industry, jobs and investment.

Islands are widely viewed as compelling test beds to renewable energy industries, investors, and advocates. When battery storage company Younicos wanted a testing ground for its large scale microgrid project, it chose the island of Graciosa in the Portuguese Azores. The Carbon War Room sought to advance its mission to accelerate carbon reducing business solutions by catalyzing a 100% renewable energy transition project on ten small islands.

With their abundance of renewable resources, their natural treasures, and their vulnerability to the impacts of fossil fuel dependence, islands also provide inspiration for others to embrace clean energy. It is no wonder that UNESCO recently chose an island off the coast of Spain – El Hierro – to sign a declaration calling for the global transition to 100% renewable energy.<sup>2</sup>

By adopting a 100% RPS, Hawaii will be boldly responding to this call - and doing the tough and critical work of translating it into action. In so doing, the state will reduce local problems caused by fossil fuel import dependence, become a magnet for new industries and groundbreaking research, and set an example for the nation and the world to create a better future for our children and the children of tomorrow.

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<sup>2</sup> The declaration was signed at the 2014 Renisla Forum on the Island of El Hierro off the coast of Spain. El Hierro is on track to achieve 100% renewable electricity. See: [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CDAQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.go100percent.org%2Fcms%2Findex.php%3Fid%3D120%26tx\\_ttnews%255Btt\\_news%255D%3D350%26cHash%3D8fe9ed4bd272c3c57b3989054164e4b2&ei=jscDVZyYEtXnoASTg4CgCw&usg=AFQjCNGBmM8kebTtYocr9vEqq4SyhVIRLQ&bvm=bv.88198703.d.cGU](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CDAQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.go100percent.org%2Fcms%2Findex.php%3Fid%3D120%26tx_ttnews%255Btt_news%255D%3D350%26cHash%3D8fe9ed4bd272c3c57b3989054164e4b2&ei=jscDVZyYEtXnoASTg4CgCw&usg=AFQjCNGBmM8kebTtYocr9vEqq4SyhVIRLQ&bvm=bv.88198703.d.cGU)