



July 23, 2013

Honorable Council Members,

Hawaii County has a unique opportunity to create a fully sustainable energy economy based on locally produced energy. In fact, Hawaii County may, within our lifetime, find itself in the position of a net energy exporter. The move away from petroleum based energy cannot be accomplished however without transforming our transportation sector.

The adoption of plug-in vehicles, which get some or all of their motive power from the electric grid or locally produced renewable energy, is an important step which will allow the county to move more rapidly away from petroleum as an energy source, and take advantage of locally produced energy. This move will ultimately bring lower energy costs to all Hawaii residents while improving the local economy and addressing both local air quality and global warming issues.

Three years ago it was almost impossible to purchase a plug-in vehicle. Today there are over 13 models available in showrooms across the US. At least 4 models are currently in use in Hawaii County. The Nissan LEAF, Tesla Model S, Chevrolet Volt and Prius Plug-in. While Hawaii County may not have the largest number of vehicles in the state, we certainly drive the furthest distances. One of the best ways that the county can help to promote further adoption of this important technology advancement is to support the construction of fast charging stations at strategic locations around the county. This would not only allow the existing plug-in vehicles in the county to be used for a larger percentage of trips, it would also help to overcome a major obstacle to plug-in vehicle ownership in the county accelerating the adoption of plug-in vehicles in the County.

Plug In America is the leading plug-in vehicle advocacy group in the nation and the author of the "Hawaii EV Ready Guidebook for Commercial Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installations" produced for the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

We strongly urge the Council to adopt policies to accelerate the placement of additional charging in strategic locations around the county supporting countywide use of plug-in vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Kane", written in a cursive style.

Mike Kane  
Board Member – Treasurer  
Plug In America

2370 Market Street #419 San Francisco CA 94114

Plug In America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN #26-1799615.

Plug In America drives change. We accelerate the shift to plug-in vehicles powered by clean, affordable, domestic electricity to reduce our nation's dependence on petroleum and improve the global environment.