



# OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY



## What is the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency?

The Office was established by O’ahu voters in 2016 when they overwhelmingly approved City Charter Amendment 7. The focus of the Office is to build partnerships between city departments, the State, and private entities to increase sustainability and address climate change on O’ahu.

## What is 100 Resilient Cities?

100RC, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, is an organization dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. From nearly 1,200 applicant cities around the globe, Honolulu was selected to be one of 100 cities in the 100RC network.

PIONEERED BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

100 RESILIENT CITIES



## WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Resilience on O’ahu is the capacity of our individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems on our island to survive, adapt, and grow, regardless of chronic stresses and acute shocks we experience. Resilience is often associated with the ability to “bounce back” when something bad happens to a person or a city. The Office is focused on helping O’ahu “bounce forward” – taking every opportunity to learn from mistakes and prepare for disasters so that we can be stronger and more resilient in the wake of the shocks and stresses we experience.

The first job for the Chief Resilience Officer is to develop a “Resilience Strategy” for O’ahu. We will review current efforts to increase resilience such as the City’s eight *Sustainable Communities/Development Plans* (currently being updated) and the City’s *All-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Plan*. Building on the Resilient O’ahu Workshop held in June (see inside page), we will continue to engage the community and stakeholders over the next 8-12 months before publishing a final Resilience Strategy to guide our work.

## WHAT ARE SHOCKS AND STRESSES?

Shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten a city in a short time frame, such as a hurricane or flood. Stresses weaken the fabric of a city on a daily or cyclical basis, such as income inequality or gradual sea level rise. At the Resilient O’ahu Workshop, participants were asked to prioritize the top shocks and stresses facing O’ahu and produced the following results:

### TOP SHOCKS

- Infrastructure Failure
- Hurricane
- Other Natural Disasters



### TOP STRESSES

- Rising Sea Level
- Cost of Living/ Access to Housing
- Overreliance on Imports



# What is the Role of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency?

*Under the County Charter, the following are the official responsibilities of the Office:*

- Track climate change science and potential impacts on city facilities
- Coordinate actions and policies of city agencies to increase preparedness and develop resilient infrastructure in response to the effects of climate change
- Develop and coordinate city policies and programs that improve environmental performance
- Integrate sustainable and environmental values into city plans, programs and policies
- Promote resilience of communities and coastal areas
- Report to the Mayor and City Council regarding overall city and county performance in meeting resilience targets and objectives
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies on climate and resilience issues
- Convene a climate change commission to inform resilience decision-making



## A Culture of Collaboration

Cohesive and engaged communities were identified as a key strength by workshop participants. One recent example of this was the response to the current Federal Administration's withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement on June 1, 2017. Hawai'i became the first state to officially endorse the Paris Climate Agreement through law when Governor Ige signed Act 32 on June 6. At his side were Mayor Kirk Caldwell and representatives from all three other county mayors who simultaneously committed to join the US Climate Change Alliance and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement at the county levels as well. The ability of the State and all counties to organize quickly and seamlessly to endorse a shared vision of climate action speaks to the close relationships and shared values of a community that remains connected to the environment and culture of our Islands. Part of this closeness grows out of the shared commitments to the Aloha+ Challenge, a statewide commitment to sustainability from all major branches of government including the Governor, all four county mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i, State Legislature and public-private partners of Hawai'i Green Growth from across the state.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# SUMMARY OF RESILIENT O'AHU WORKSHOP

On June 8, 2017, the Resilient O'ahu Workshop introduced 100RC to city stakeholders, shared knowledge and produced initial recommendations to help inform a Resilience Strategy.

Following opening remarks by Mayor Caldwell, a live survey of workshop participants gauged perceptions of community issues. Three exercises followed and helped identify, prioritize and diagnose O'ahu's resilience issues while another exercise allowed stakeholders to discuss what makes them proud to be part of O'ahu.

## WORKSHOP RESULTS: CITY RESILIENCE DIAGNOSTIC

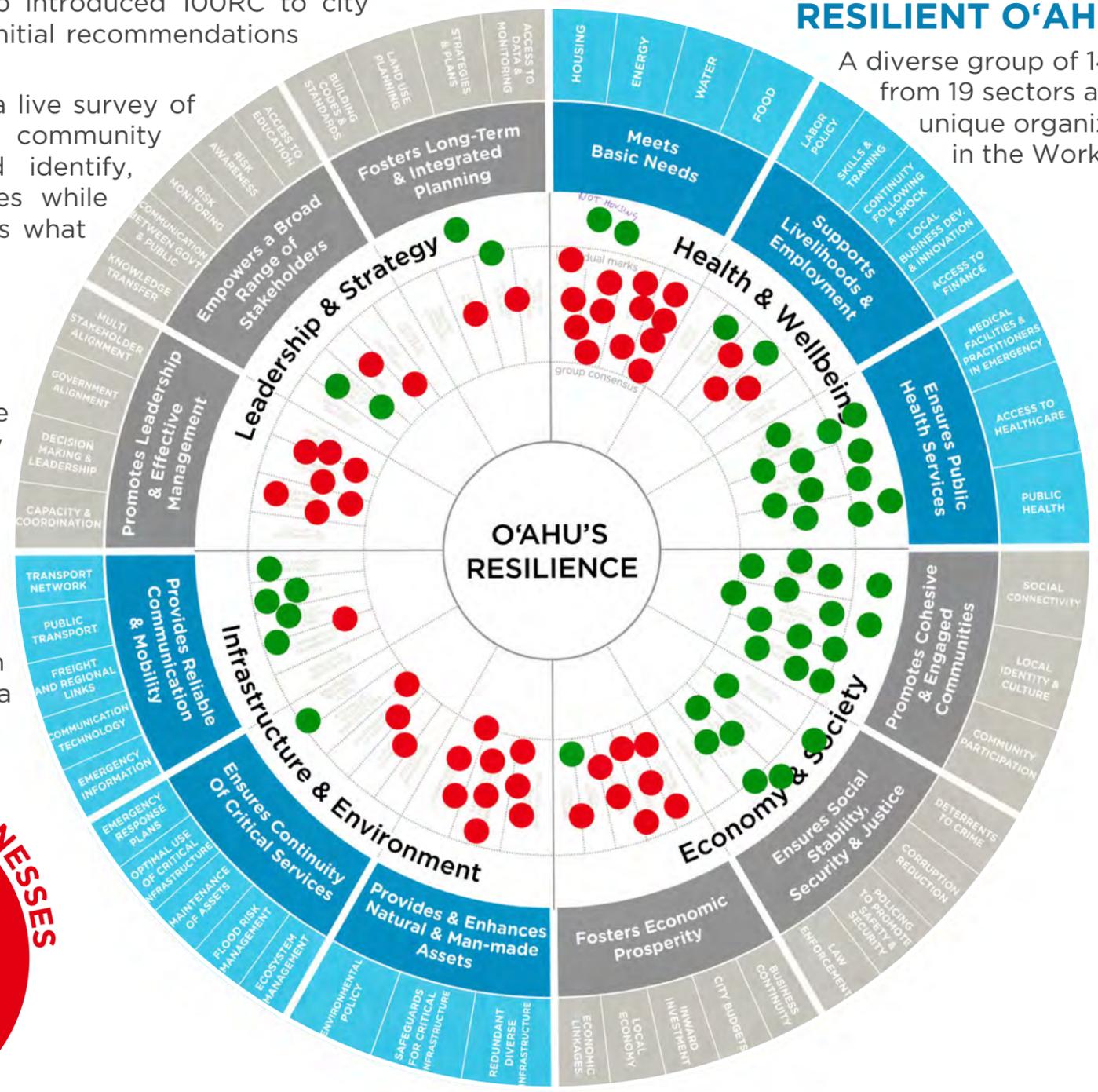
Top strengths and weaknesses of O'ahu were identified at the Workshop as part of a City Resilience Diagnostic exercise. Participants reviewed the 12 drivers of the City Resilience Framework and rated each as an area of strength (green), can do better (yellow), or can do much better (red) using colored dots. Each table was asked to reach group consensus on their top three strengths and weaknesses. The results from each of the 16 participant tables were then placed on a final framework shown to the right.

**TOP STRENGTHS**

- Promotes Cohesive & Engaged Communities
- Ensures Public Health Services
- Ensures Social Stability, Security & Justice

**TOP WEAKNESSES**

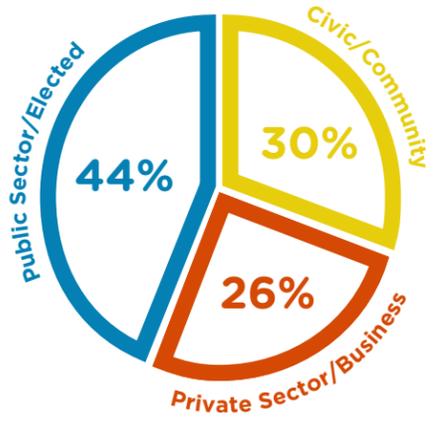
- Meets Basic Needs
- Provides & Enhances Natural & Man-made Assets
- Fosters Economic Prosperity



Above: Master Framework City Resilience Diagnostic Wheel from the Resilient O'ahu Workshop

## WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RESILIENT O'AHU WORKSHOP?

A diverse group of 140 stakeholders drawn from 19 sectors and representing 117 unique organizations participated in the Workshop.



Resilience is: "Being like a coconut tree in the wind - bend but don't break."

Resilience is: "GRIT."

Resilience is: "Strength and Preparation."

O'ahu Pride: "Hokale'a"

Resilience is: "'Aina, Kanaka and Akua thriving in healthy co-dependence."

O'ahu Pride: "Governor and County Mayors pledge to uphold Paris Climate Agreement."



Image from Resilient O'ahu Workshop

## TIMELINE FOR RESILIENCE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Image from Resilient O'ahu Workshop