2018 BUSINESS OF CLIMATE & ENERGY CANDIDATE FORUM

Blue Planet Foundation and Elemental Excelerator will host a 1.5-hour public forum featuring candidates in statewide and congressional races to explore critical climate and energy issues facing Hawai‘i—and how these issues will affect our business community and contribute to building a knowledge economy in the state. The purpose of the forum is to help educate voters about the candidates’ positions and policy solutions regarding Hawai‘i’s clean energy future.

DATE AND TIME: Monday, August 6th, noon to 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Art Building Auditorium
PARTICIPANTS: Candidates in races for Governor, Lt. Governor, Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 2

FORMAT: The forum will consist of a moderated dialog, with questions directed to candidates by a panel of three moderators. Questions will be developed by Forum sponsors and curated from questions solicited from the public.

MODERATORS: The moderators for the Forum have yet to be finalized, but will likely include Prof. Maxine Burkett, Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law at U.H.; Dawn Lippert, CEO of Elemental Excelerator; and a student or a representative of Sponsor organizations

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: The Forum will be open to the public (limited by seating capacity) and all media. It will be streamed live online and recorded for later sharing online and through social media.

SPONSORS: Blue Planet Foundation and Elemental Excelerator

An energy and climate forum is very timely. High electricity and gasoline prices, new mobility and electric vehicles, solar and energy storage, climate change, and the future of the electric utility are discussed in the news almost daily. Clean energy already employs twice as many workers as fossil fuels in Hawai‘i, and energy jobs pay $3 to $7 more per hour than Hawai‘i’s median wage of $20. Significant opportunities exist for growth, innovation, and workforce development in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, and energy technologies sectors. Estimates are that at least $2.9B of new investment in clean energy will be made by 2030. At the same time, Hawai‘i faces the specter of devastating climate change—with sea level rise, stronger storms, and hotter temperatures threatening our economy and way of life. A recent state report estimates that expected sea level rise will cause over $19 billion in damages from flooding of land and structures—not including infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

The next four to eight years will determine Hawai‘i’s role in the global conversation, as well as set the stage for the infrastructure and foundation in the years to come. Many Hawai‘i residents have questions on what to expect in the coming years and are eager to hear the candidates’ ideas, positions, and vision for powering our islands in the future. We are seeking a balanced discussion with candidates from both parties in the statewide and congressional races.

Forum sponsors are not engaged in any activities or endorsements supporting individual candidates.

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1 Transcending Oil. Elemental Excelerator, 2018.