



News Release

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BLUE PLANET FOUNDATION APPLAUDS HAWAII "CLEAN CARS" ACT

With President Obama clearing the way, Hawaii has new opportunity to aggressively move toward high efficiency vehicles

Blue Planet Foundation Executive Director Jeff Mikulina today praised a new Hawaii bill that would hasten adoption of "clean cars" in the state and dramatically increase fuel efficiency of cars and trucks sold in Hawaii.

"Adopting a Clean Cars law would enable Hawaii residents to go further with their gasoline budgets," said Mikulina. "It's time for Hawaii to join the other states in passing smart reforms to reduce pain at the pump and greenhouse gas emissions."

The "Clean Cars Act," introduced by Sen. Mike Gabbard (D, Waialeale - Makakilo), Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee, would require vehicles sold in Hawaii to dramatically increase the miles that they travel on a gallon of gas. Action today by President Barack Obama is clearing the path for such a bill. In a departure from the previous administration, Obama today is asking federal regulators to reconsider a federal stance that prevented state action on fuel efficiency standards.

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Hawaii's bill is modeled after California's Clean Car law, passed in 2002. That law requires automakers to cut emissions by nearly a third by 2016--the equivalent of boosting the average fuel economy of cars and light trucks to 35 miles per gallon from the current average of 27.

Since California enacted the Clean Cars law, at least 13 additional states adopted identical fuel efficiency provisions. Those states, in addition to California, have been prevented from implementing their laws. The Bush Administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refused to grant the necessary waiver to allow the states to adopt more stringent standards than federal law provides. The Obama Administration indicated a change in that position today with a clear directive to the EPA to move quickly on investigating whether to grant the waiver to California and the other states. Granting the waiver – as is anticipated – would enable Hawaii to adopt the same aggressive fuel economy standards.

“I applaud President Obama for his decision to allow the states to toughen our fuel efficiency standards,” said Gabbard. “This will go a long way toward saving us money at the pumps and reducing the pollution coming from our tailpipes. This is common sense legislation that I’m hopeful will move forward this session.”

The Blue Planet Foundation is a non-profit organization created to change our world's energy culture, to raise global awareness in order to develop and adopt practical programs to implement clean, efficient, and renewable energy and to create a global response to our increasingly urgent climate crisis.

For information on the energy proposals pending before the Hawaii legislature, please visit www.blueplanetfoundation.org

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