

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

Hawaii's Island Nation Siblings

Geographically & geologically Hawaii has more in common with the world's 47 island nations than with its 49 sister states. If independent, Hawaii would be on a list of 23 island nations categorized under the geographic configuration of "Spread over group of islands (including parts of archipelagoes and island arcs)."

The majority of these island nations fall within the tropic zones and like Hawaii, these island nations are beautiful and depict peaceful serenity.

But behind these nations' attractive facades lie many difficult challenges. Physical and political isolation, together with the impact of sea level rise and global warming that brings changes in agriculture and food production, biodiversity loss, damage to coastal coral reefs, saltwater intrusion to coastal aquifers, and increases in certain disease vectors, make them vulnerable to outside forces that increasingly threaten their survival.

Most island nations depend heavily on tourism, foreign aid, and a limited range of exports like sugar and bananas. Most island nations struggle daily with depleted fish stocks, inadequate waste management, ship pollution, degraded reefs, dwindling freshwater supplies, and poverty. And most island nations are uniquely threatened by price shocks from economic globalization.

The state of Hawaii is more isolated than any island nation, but if measured by economic success, with its total gross domestic product of \$61,532 million, would stand second only to the Philippines.

The 50th state's strategic and political relationship with the United States affords it a standard of living at the very top of the list, not just of these sibling islands, but above 129 of more than 190 countries of the world.

~ List of countries by GDP: 2007 List by the CIA World Factbook



"Hawaii's success will serve as an integrated model and demonstration test bed for the United States and other island communities globally, many of which are just beginning the transition to a clean energy economy."

~Alexander Karsner
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Energy



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801