Honolulu performed best in the energy and water utilities category. The city rose significantly in the rankings this year but can improve across multiple policy areas to advance its rank in the next edition of the Scorecard, most notably in community-wide initiatives and local government operations.

COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVES (4.5 OF 15 POINTS)
Honolulu’s climate change mitigation and renewable energy goals set the vision for a clean energy future. ACEEE projects that the city will not achieve its community-wide GHG emissions reduction goal of 45% below 2015 levels by 2025. The Resilient Oahu plan includes goals to improve energy and housing affordability outcomes. To mitigate the urban heat island effect, Honolulu aims to increase urban tree canopy coverage to 35% by 2035.

BUILDINGS POLICIES (9.5 OF 30 POINTS)
Hawai‘i requires all residential and commercial buildings to comply with the Hawai‘i Energy Code, which references the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. Honolulu is active in the State Building Code Council, and actively weighs in on state policies to change codes. Honolulu requires new residential buildings to be solar-PV and electric vehicle ready. Honolulu does not have programs committed to developing a dedicated energy efficiency or renewable energy workforce. The city requires the disclosure of energy-use information at the time of sale for residential property owners. Honolulu takes an equitable approach to energy efficiency efforts targeting existing buildings through programs providing income-eligible homeowners with low- and zero-interest loans for solar installations and energy efficient appliances. The city offers several renewable energy and energy efficiency incentives, such as zero-interest loans for low-income homeowners.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (14.5 OF 30 POINTS)
Of low-income households in Honolulu, 61.6% have access to high-quality transit, a moderate number. With 26.6 per 100,000 people, the city has a low number of EV charging station ports available for public use. Honolulu has neither a sustainable freight transportation plan in place nor any policies that address freight efficiency. The city has set a goal to increase its bicycle commuting mode share to 2.4% by 2024. The transportation entities that serve Honolulu have received roughly $381.65 per capita on average in local transit funding annually between 2015 and 2019, a moderately high funding level.

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES (9 OF 15 POINTS)
Compared to other utilities, Hawai‘i Electric reports moderate savings as a percentage of sales for electric programs and does not offer natural gas efficiency programs due to the lack of gas usage in the state. Hawai‘i Energy offers a portfolio of low-income energy efficiency programs and also offers programs for multifamily properties. The city of Honolulu uses community-wide energy use information for internal planning and evaluation purposes and advocates to improve utility data access and transparency. The city also encourages utility-scale and distributed renewable energy generation through actions such as advocating for renewable portfolio standards and developing performance contracts to expand clean energy throughout city facilities. Hawai‘i Energy does not currently have a carbon emissions reduction goal in place.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (4 OF 10 POINTS)
The city and county of Honolulu committed to GHG emissions reductions in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. Additionally, Hawai‘i has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Honolulu prioritizes the purchase of efficient vehicles and 0.6% of its fleet is made up of efficient vehicles. The city has converted its streetlights to LEDs. Honolulu has not adopted inclusive procurement and contracting policies. The city does not have a comprehensive retrofit strategy but has installed 8 MW of renewable generation capacity on city buildings.