



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ISLAND LEADERS DISCUSS NET ZERO PATHWAYS, CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY AT LOCAL2030 ISLANDS NETWORK SIDE EVENT AT UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**(Honolulu, Hawai‘i, July 8, 2021)** – On Monday, July 12, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. EDT, leaders from island economies around the world will discuss their efforts to accelerate action on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The side event, part of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, is hosted by Ireland on behalf of the [Local2030 Islands Network](#), the world’s first global, island-led peer-to-peer network devoted to advancing the UN SDGs through locally driven, culturally informed solutions. Hawaii Green Growth Local2030 Hub and the Global Island Partnership comprise the Secretariat of the Local2030 Islands Network.

To participate, register at this [link](#). Questions will be taken from the audience. Opening remarks will be made by the Honorable Colm Brophy, Minister of State for Overseas Development and Diaspora for Ireland.

Ambassador Brian Flynn, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, will moderate the first panel. Panelists are leaders of the [Micronesia Challenge](#), including HE David Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; HE Christopher Loek, Acting President and Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; HE Surangel Whipps, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau and the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam. They will discuss their engagement with the Local2030 Islands Network as well as the progress they have made towards building a sustainable future, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and climate change.

The second panel will discuss how islands are advancing global solutions to address climate change. Speakers will include the Honorable Simon Stiehl, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Grenada; the Honorable Dr. Richard Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, United States; Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, Acting US Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; and the Honorable Brian Schatz, US Senator for Hawaii.

Throughout 2020, the Local2030 Islands Network ran a series of [webinars](#) focused on building back better in the context of COVID-19 and shared island solutions, experiences, and approaches. Examples of solutions from the webinar series included food security (SDG 2), economic resilience and recovery (SDG 8), youth engagement in recovery (SDG 10 and 17), building climate resilience for COVID-19 recovery (SDG 13), and the public-private partnerships and effective institutions on islands that can support recovery (SDG 16 and 17).



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