



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Lori Weigel & Karoline McGrail / New Bridge Strategy
DATE: September 29, 2021
RE: Voters in Hawaii Overwhelmingly Support the Build Back Better Act

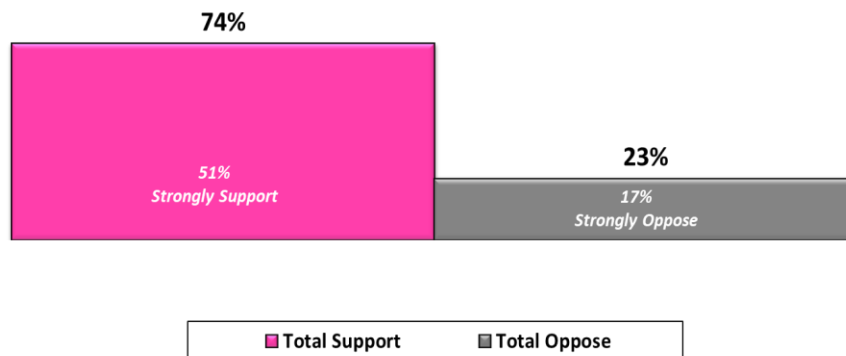
New Bridge Strategy recently completed a survey of voters throughout Hawaii to assess their views on the Build Back Better Act.¹ The study found overwhelming support for a proposal to invest in a range of programs from health care to child care and policies that address climate change and transition to cleaner energy. Voters throughout Hawaii, in every type of community and across ethnic and other key demographic sub-groups express support for the proposal. Hawaii voters view a number of climate-related policies – from reef and forest restoration to helping communities prepare for natural disasters – as very important, and on par with some health care-related investments. Most also say that transitioning to more clean energy and reducing carbon pollution are a good investment of taxpayers’ money. Over three-quarters want their Member of Congress to work with the Administration to ensure these policies are acted upon.

The specific key findings include:

- **Upon hearing an explanation of the Build Back Better plan, voters support the plan by a 51-point margin.** Respondents were told that *“Congress is considering a major legislative proposal that would include a number of policies... there are a number of things this legislation could do.*
- *Reduce the cost of prescription drugs and make certain types of care more affordable for seniors through Medicare*
- *Transition to more production and use of clean energy and reduce carbon pollution emissions that contribute to climate change*
- *Expand access to affordable home care for the elderly and disabled*
- *Expand access to affordable quality child care and voluntary pre-kindergarten*
- *Continue the new child tax credit*
- *Provide two years of community college*
This legislation would cost 3.5 trillion dollars and would be paid for by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy. It would not raise taxes on anyone earning less than 400,000 dollars a year.

Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) support the plan as illustrated in the following chart, while fewer than one-in-four oppose it.

¹ **Methodology:** From September 22-26, 2021, New Bridge Strategy completed 500 live telephone interviews (landline and cell) with voters throughout Hawaii. The sample was drawn proportionally throughout the state and is demographically and politically representative of the electorate. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/- 4.38% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.



Support extends across nearly all key demographic and geographic sub-groups:

- 67% of men and 82% of women;
 - 95% of Democrats, 41% of Republicans, and 55% of Independents;
 - 85% of those under 35, 76% of those 35-44 years of age, 73% of those 45-54 years of age, 76% of those 55-64 years of age, and 60% of seniors;
 - 76% in the 1st Congressional District and 73% in the 2nd Congressional District;
 - 74% in Honolulu County and 76% in Hawaii County; and,
 - 71% of white voters, 77% of those who are at least part Hawaiian, 86% of Filipino and 83% of Japanese voters.
- **Similarly, more than three-quarters of voters say they want their Member of Congress to support the Build Back Better plan.** After hearing more about the proposal, 77 percent of voters say they would want their Member of Congress to support the plan. Notably, support continues to be overwhelming among key swing sub-groups such as moderates (80 percent), moms (86 percent) and suburban voters (76 percent) who all want their congressman to support the plan. Only 21 percent overall say they want their Member of Congress to oppose the plan.
 - **Hawaii voters view a number of climate-related policies – from reef and forest restoration to helping communities prepare for natural disasters – as very important, and on par with some health care-related investments.** We told respondents about twelve items that could potentially be funded by the Build Back Better plan and asked them to indicate how important it is to them that funds be dedicated to that purpose – extremely important, very important, somewhat important or simply not important. As the next graph shows, nearly three-quarters find each one to be at least somewhat important but the top-tier is dominated by health care and many climate-related provisions.

	% Extremely/Very Important	% Total Important
Making health care more affordable for seniors in Medicare and some lower-income working people who do not have health insurance access	71%	92%
Restoring coral reefs that provide habitat for fish and protect coastlines and infrastructure from high waves and erosion during storms	70%	92%
Restoring forests, which help reduce air pollution, provide fresh water and store carbon	68%	91%
Expanding access to affordable home care for the elderly and disabled	67%	93%
Reducing pollution in disadvantaged communities which historically have experienced greater water and air pollution	65%	86%
Reducing carbon pollution emissions that contribute to climate change	64%	84%
Providing incentives to transition to more solar and other clean, renewable energy sources	64%	87%
Helping communities reduce the risk and be better prepared for natural disasters like wildfires, storms, floods or drought	62%	91%
Helping farmers, fishermen and other local industries impacted by climate change	57%	85%
Expanding access to affordable quality childcare and voluntary pre-kindergarten	56%	85%
Providing two years of community college	41%	74%
Continuing the new child tax credit	38%	74%

- Nearly four-in-five say that transitioning to more clean energy and reducing carbon pollution are a good investment of taxpayers' money.** We asked respondents whether or not these efforts to address climate change are a good investment of taxpayers' money or not. Fully 78 percent say it is a good investment, with 60 percent classifying this as a very good investment. Only one-in-five say it is not a good investment.

This may be due to the fact that Hawaii voters overwhelmingly view climate change as happening (89 percent), with voters across the political spectrum including 71 percent of Republicans, acknowledging climate change. This is the highest proportion we have seen in any state. The vast majority of voters point to humans as the cause of this change as well (83 percent say humans are at least having some impact).

- More than seven-in-ten want to see bold action on climate change, even if it requires federal funding in the short-term.** Fully 71 percent agree with the statement that “we cannot afford to continue to delay on policies that will help address climate change. Now is the time to take bold action, even if it means significant government spending in the short-term.” This sentiment is widely shared across types of community, counties, ethnic, age and gender sub-groups.

In conclusion, the vast majority of Hawaii voters are supportive of the Build Back Better Act. They view a number of climate-related provisions as very important funding items and say that this is a good investment of taxpayers' money. There is a desire for bold action even if it requires spending.