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Hawaii turns to California's former EPA chief for help with transportation energy goals



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Hawaii's top energy official is turning to California's former Environmental Protection Agency chief as the state focuses more on the transportation portion of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Much of the talk of the initiative, which set goals for the state to receive 70 percent of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030, has thus far centered around renewables with solar and wind leading the way, but Mark Glick, administrator for the state Energy Office is calling upon Alan Lloyd, the former California EPA Secretary, to help the state with its transportation goals.

Transportation accounts for more than 60 percent of the energy consumed in Hawaii, and while air transportation uses the largest portion — nearly 40 percent — trucks, buses, and cars consume roughly 20 percent.

"We are reviewing the best practices and case studies internationally," Glick told the audience at the 6th Annual Hawaii Clean Energy Day held earlier this week in Downtown Honolulu. "We're establishing a timeline and set of realistic expectations, and we'll present planning, policy, regulatory and funding requirements necessary to carry out the next steps."

Last week, Glick, in an exclusive interview with PBN, said that the new transportation roadmap goals will look at ways to reduce the amount of fuel the state uses.

He said it plans to look at both long-term and short-term solutions, including fuels that can bring down pricing, such as liquefied natural gas or LNG.

"This is a [more than 30 year] effort on the transportation side," he said.

Some progress in this area has already been made, such as the hydrogen fuel test stations at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Windward Oahu and on the Big Island.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.