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Pursuit of renewable energy helps power state economy

Administrator says state 'well on its way' to reaching 2015 goals

The state of Hawaii's ambitious energy agenda to achieve 70 percent clean energy by the year 2030 is providing an appreciated jolt to our economy.



MARK GLICK
 IN MY OPINION

While tourism and military continue to be the principal economic drivers, clean energy has been the fastest-growing sector, particularly in construction.

Consider that photovoltaic installations will account for more than one-quarter of all state-wide construction expenditures in 2012.

This is up from 18 percent in 2011.

Hawaii now generates about 12 percent of its energy from renewable sources and is well on its way toward reaching its renewable portfolio standards benchmark of 15 percent by 2015. Energy efficiency is more than one-third of the way towards its 30 percent goal by 2030. The value of energy-savings performance contracts are now \$132 per capita, a level that

some national experts once thought was unattainable. The next closest state is Ohio with \$108 per capita.

The state of Hawaii also is leading by example with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold designation for the State Office Tower and a national Race to the Top award as the nation's leader in energy-savings performance contracting. We plan to extend our national leadership in energy efficiency by providing more technical assistance for energy-savings performance contracting, efficient building retrofits, and LEED certifications.

Hawaii also recently become a national player in the emerging electric vehicle market. The widespread deployment of EVs and EV infrastructure is one of the leading strategies Hawaii is employing to reduce imported oil consumption.

Since mid-2011, the number of EVs in Hawaii has almost tripled from 357 in July 2011 to 1,016 in October 2012. According to an Oct. 31, 2012, Edmunds.com press release, Hawaii ranks 10th in the nation for EV registrations, with 2.9 percent of all EVs sold in the country in 2012. We're now proposing programs in the new state budget two-year period that begins

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"The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them."

Albert Einstein



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*or \$5,000 max per residential system

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GLICK: Hawaii ranks third in the U.S. in growth of clean-energy jobs

FROM PAGE 16

in July of 2013 to deploy programs and tools such as Hawaii-specific EV charging station applications to further encourage EV adoption.

We also aid the development of renewable-energy projects infrastructure with technical assistance and resource expertise. In the past year and a half, the State Energy Office has assisted the development of 202 megawatt renewable-energy generation projects representing approximately 54 percent of the total 2015 renewable portfolio standards target. With the state being well under way to achieve the 2015 targets, we have set our sights on the 2020 target of 25 percent RPS.

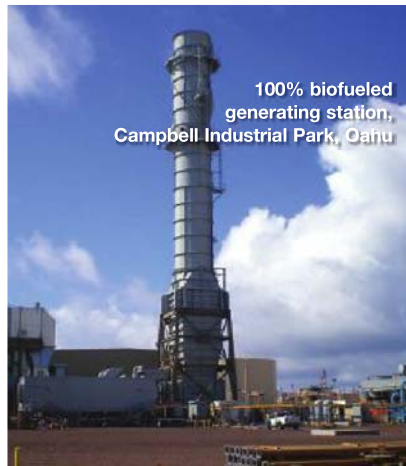
We hope that this next liftoff will take us to new heights in clean-energy job growth and economic vitality.

To get there, we plan to boost our planning, permitting and siting assistance to a portfolio of renewable-energy and infrastructure projects with greatest probability of success across the state. Beyond one-to-one assistance, we will develop and expand upon existing solutions that can be found at www.energy.hawaii.gov, such as geographic information systems, e-permitting, and our new Permitting Wizard tool.

Currently, Hawaii ranks third in the U.S. in clean-energy job growth. To stimulate further growth in Hawaii's economy, we have tasked our new innovation, planning and policy branch with developing an aggressive plan for energy entrepreneurship and innovation. Several of the ideas we'll pursue in the upcoming legislative session are a "proof-of-concept center" that accelerates "energy tech" development towards our greatest energy challenges and making large pools of low-interest financing available for clean-energy projects.

We hope that this next liftoff will take us to new heights in clean-energy job growth and economic vitality.

MARK GLICK is energy administrator in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's State Energy Office. Reach him at mark.b.glick@dbedt.hawaii.gov



100% biofueled generating station, Campbell Industrial Park, Oahu



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*As of August 2012



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