

# Four questions for Mark Glick on energy

**SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:** Apr 24, 2015, 12:00am HST



[Duane Shimogawa](#)

Reporter- Pacific Business News

[Email](#) | [Google+](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

[Mark Glick](#), Administrator for the state Energy Office

**What's in store for the Hawaii energy scene in 2015?** The state is addressing our entire energy landscape in 2015. The hard work to advance Hawaii's clean-energy agenda in the electricity sector will continue to occupy center stage with resource, demand and price analysis that we hope will inform optimal improvements to our electricity generation, transmission and distribution systems.

The next phase of Hawaii's Clean Energy Initiative will also focus on reducing petroleum-based fuels in transportation.

In June, we plan to convene stakeholders to review our revised energy in transportation road map that resets our goals and offers us a real chance to finally make significant progress in the consumption of gasoline and diesel with the support of a broad cross-section of private, public and community stakeholders. Using a collaborative planning and design process, we were able to bring together the expertise needed to tackle such an enormous task.

Later in 2015, we plan to take similar approaches to devise more robust plans for energy efficiency and how to reach 100 percent renewable in the electricity sector.

**What will help the state move even closer to those renewable-energy goals?** Data and planning are the key to creating an optimal path for investments in Hawaii's electricity sector towards a 100 percent renewable future.

The state Energy Office's new energy systems and transportation branch is positioning the state to offer guidance to our electric utilities and the Public Utilities Commission on how to achieve the highest penetration of renewables at the lowest costs to ensure safety and reliability of our energy infrastructure. We believe these ideas will gain more traction when we model mitigation strategies for managing intermittent power and grid stability from the utilities' perspective.

**What challenges are in the way to getting the state there?** A third-party analysis done for

HCEI calculated that it will take upwards of \$38 billion in capital spending on renewable-energy and energy-efficiency technologies to meet the state's original clean-energy goals.

Now that we are committed to even higher renewable portfolio targets, it is imperative that we attract the investment needed to fund our clean-energy transformation.

That's why Hawaii needs to be innovative not only in coming up with technological solutions, but with financing solutions.

Initiatives like the state **Department of Business**, Economic Development and Tourism's recently launched Green Energy Market Securitization program show that we can develop homegrown clean-energy financing solutions worthy of international recognition.

In addition to winning several finance industry awards, the GEMS program is scheduled to be recognized next month by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development at its second Green Investment Financing Forum in Paris.

**How would you characterize the current state of clean energy in Hawaii?** There are many reasons to be optimistic about our progress and our ability to meet our ambitious goals.

Most of the metrics are pointing in the right direction. We are ahead of schedule on both our renewable portfolio standard and energy-efficiency portfolio standard. This success rightfully has prompted leaders in the public and private sector to call for even more aggressive clean-energy goals.

At the same time, we have to make sure that our success doesn't breed complacency. The problems solved first are often the easiest.

We know that it will take a collective effort — backed up with focus and perseverance — to make Hawaii energy independent and create a vital growth area in our economy.

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