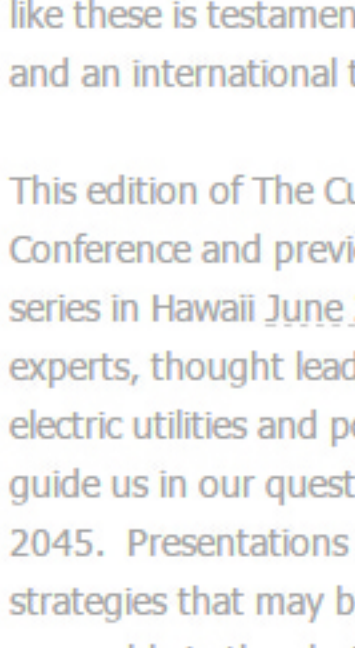




The Current serves Hawaii's businesses and policy makers in making informed decisions about clean energy investments and policy. Hawaii's clean energy sector is a significant catalyst for economic development to replace fossil fuel expenditures with home-grown industries that generate revenue and create high-paying jobs for local residents.

HAWAII'S ENERGY FUTURE: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION MARK GLICK, ENERGY ADMINISTRATOR



Hawaii's clean energy transformation continues to strengthen, thanks in large part to an unprecedented partnership of stakeholders with a shared vision of Hawaii's energy future. One of the keys to keeping such a diverse group focused on Hawaii's clean energy goals as we move forward is a strong communication and outreach effort.

That's why we are so excited about working with the GreenBiz Group in bringing its annual VERGE event series to Hawaii next month. Events like VERGE Hawaii, and the recent Maui Energy Conference serve as platforms to bring together the best minds in energy to identify and advance next-generation practices for sustainable energy solutions in Hawaii and beyond. The global audiences drawn to Hawaii for events like these is testament to our growing prominence as an energy innovation leader and an international test bed.

This edition of The Current will review some of the highlights of the Maui Energy Conference and preview what is promising to be an inspiring debut of the VERGE series in Hawaii June 21-23 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The assembly of industry experts, thought leaders and practitioners at both events comes at a time when our electric utilities and policymakers are beginning the critical planning process that will guide us in our quest to achieve a 100 percent renewable portfolio standard by 2045. Presentations at the Maui Energy Conference provided a glimpse into early strategies that may be employed in order to ensure that the route to 100 percent renewable in the electricity sector is done in a manner that achieves the greatest value for the lowest cost to all utility customers.

Those who attended the Maui conference were treated to insights from the likes of Tesla Energy's head of business development, the former chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the regional sustainability coordinator from the City of Boulder, as well as representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities and the Public Utilities Commission. VERGE Hawaii will provide an excellent opportunity to take some of the themes broached at the Maui conference and flesh them out as we pursue the actions and plans needed to deliver Hawaii's ambitious clean energy goals.

OUR CLEAN ENERGY VISION

The Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) will transform Hawaii's economy by growing the clean energy sector. To this end, HSEO works to stimulate the deployment of clean energy infrastructure and serve as a catalyst for energy innovation and test bed investments. In doing so, HSEO will lead the charge in achieving 100 percent renewable energy in the electricity sector by 2045, and exceeding the target of 4,300 gigawatt hours of savings by 2030.

LEADING THE CHARGE

Moving the Needle

Hawaii's renewable portfolio standard is one of the key policy drivers at our disposal to advance the state's clean energy goals. Hawaii has continued to surpass RPS mandates ahead of time, leading the state to reach more ambitious goals. The Hawaiian Electric Companies recently reported their RPS numbers for 2015 and the strong upward trend is continuing. It should be noted that the RPS percentage at the end of last year was well ahead of the 2015 interim RPS target of 15 percent.

Rewarded for Being Green

The state honored 16 businesses and five events for their innovative work to conserve energy and implement sustainable practices at the 2016 Hawaii Green Business Program awards ceremony on April 22, 2016. The program provides assistance to businesses committed to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The awards were presented by Gov. Ige and hosted by the Hawaii State Energy Office, Department of Health and the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association.

Code Green

Howard Wiig of the Hawaii State Energy Office hosts "Code Green," a live-streaming YouTube show on ThinkTech Hawaii. The program focuses on energy-efficiency technologies that are shaking the foundations of the American economy. Even as America's population and use of electronic devices grow, energy use is shrinking. Code Green brings these technologies to life.

Code Green has featured technologies such as LED's and lighting controls, super-efficient building materials, reflective roof and wall coatings, ultra-efficient homes and buildings, and water efficiencies.

Tune into Code Green which is broadcasted every other Monday from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. (HST). Send comments and suggestions to Mr. Wiig at howard.c.wiig@hawaii.gov.



[MOVING THE
NEEDLE](#)

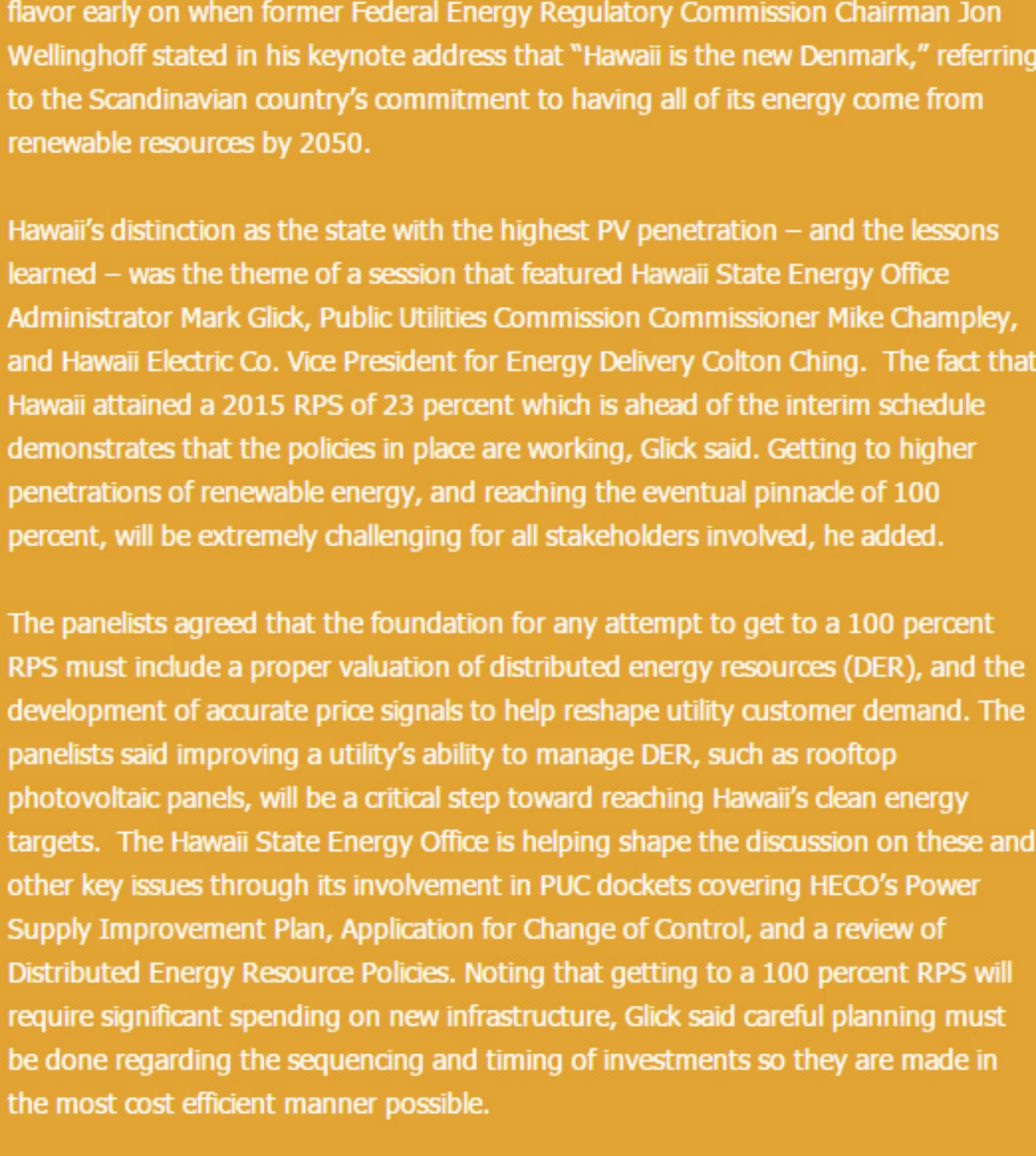


[REWARDED FOR
BEING GREEN](#)



[CODE GREEN](#)

FEATURED STORY: MAUI ENERGY CONFERENCE TACKLES 100 PERCENT RPS



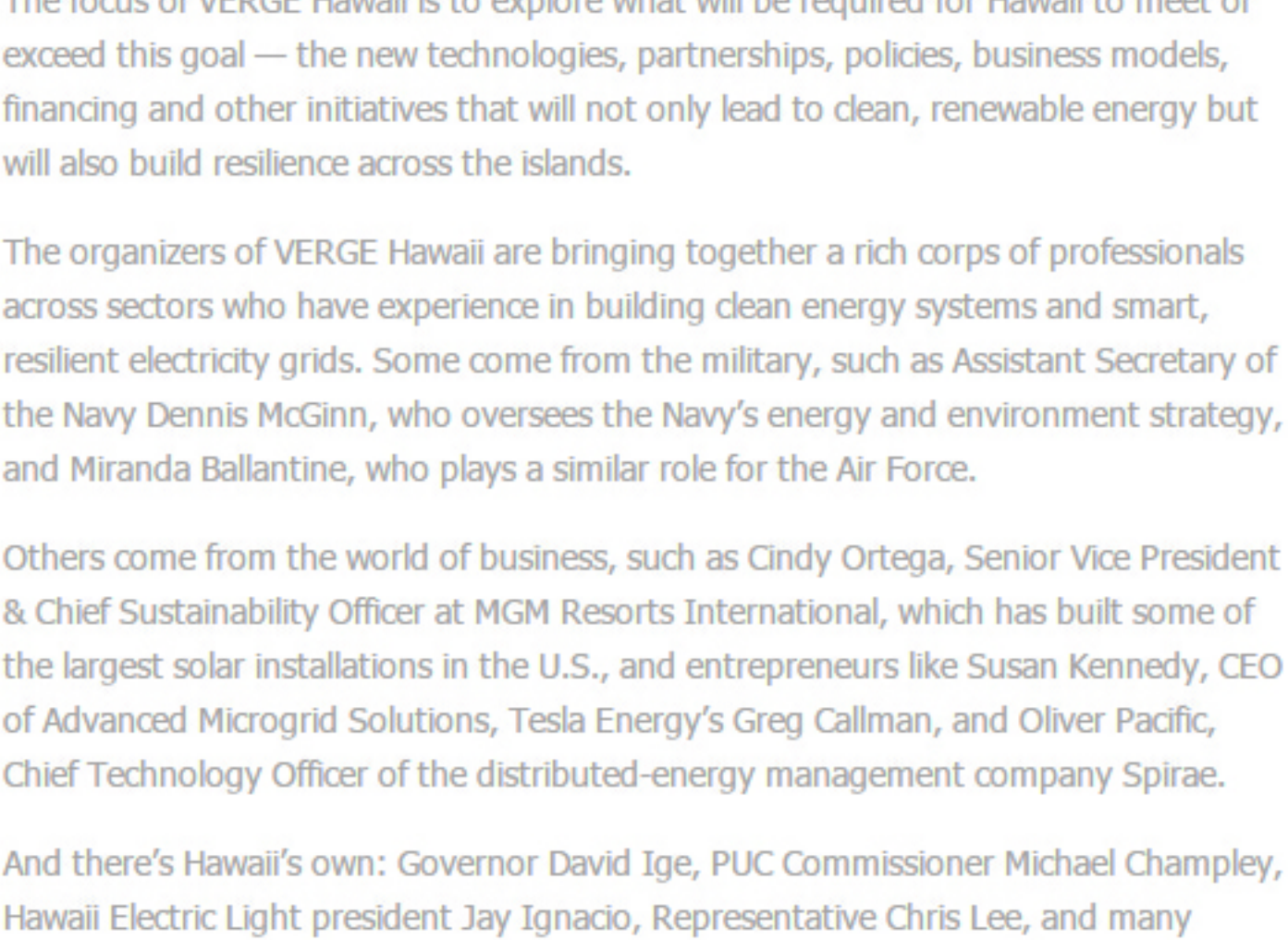
The focal point of this year's Maui Energy Conference was Hawaii's new 100 percent renewable energy standard (RPS), which made for some provocative discussions at the event held recently on the Valley Isle.

More than 340 participants, speakers and sponsors from Hawaii, the mainland U.S., Japan and Canada gathered for the third annual conference held March 16-18 at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. The program looked at Hawaii's ambitious clean energy goals from all angles, with session topics ranging from the social impacts of pursuing a 100 percent RPS, to whether Hawaii's renewable experience can be replicated and exported to the Mainland and beyond. The conference adopted an international flavor early on when former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff stated in his keynote address that "Hawaii is the new Denmark," referring to the Scandinavian country's commitment to having all of its energy come from renewable resources by 2050.

Hawaii's distinction as the state with the highest PV penetration – and the lessons learned – was the theme of a session that featured Hawaii State Energy Office Administrator Mark Glick, Public Utilities Commission Commissioner Mike Champey, and Hawaii Electric Co. Vice President for Energy Delivery Colton Ching. The fact that Hawaii attained a 2015 RPS of 23 percent which is ahead of the interim schedule demonstrates that the policies in place are working, Glick said. Getting to higher penetrations of renewable energy, and reaching the eventual pinnacle of 100 percent, will be extremely challenging for all stakeholders involved, he added.

The panelists agreed that the foundation for any attempt to get to a 100 percent RPS must include a proper valuation of distributed energy resources (DER), and the development of accurate price signals to help reshape utility customer demand. The panelists said improving a utility's ability to manage DER, such as rooftop photovoltaic panels, will be a critical step toward reaching Hawaii's clean energy targets. The Hawaii State Energy Office is helping shape the discussion on these and other key issues through its involvement in PUC dockets covering HECO's Power Supply Improvement Plan, Application for Change of Control, and a review of Distributed Energy Resource Policies. Noting that getting to a 100 percent RPS will require significant spending on new infrastructure, Glick said careful planning must be done regarding the sequencing and timing of investments so they are made in the most cost efficient manner possible.

FEATURED STORY: INFLUENTIAL ENERGY LEADERS CONVERGE AT VERGE HAWAII



By passing legislation mandating 100 percent renewably powered energy in the electricity sector by 2045, the State of Hawaii has taken a leadership role in creating a sustainable energy future. Fulfilling this mandate requires unprecedented collaboration among government, military, utilities, solution providers, energy producers and consumers and partners from around the world. To convene these stakeholders, the Hawaii State Energy Office has partnered with GreenBiz Group to launch VERGE Hawaii — Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit, June 21-23 in Honolulu.

The focus of VERGE Hawaii is to explore what will be required for Hawaii to meet or exceed this goal — the new technologies, partnerships, policies, business models, financing and other initiatives that will not only lead to clean, renewable energy but will also build resilience across the islands.

The organizers of VERGE Hawaii are bringing together a rich corps of professionals across sectors who have experience in building clean energy systems and smart, resilient electricity grids. Some come from the military, such as Assistant Secretary of the Navy Dennis McGinn, who oversees the Navy's energy and environment strategy, and Miranda Ballantine, who plays a similar role for the Air Force.

Others come from the world of business, such as Cindy Ortega, Senior Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer at MGM Resorts International, which has built some of the largest solar installations in the U.S., and entrepreneurs like Susan Kennedy, CEO of Advanced Microgrid Solutions, Tesla Energy's Greg Callman, and Oliver Pacific, Chief Technology Officer of the distributed-energy management company Spire.

And there's Hawaii's own: Governor David Ige, PUC Commissioner Michael Champey, Hawaii Electric Light president Jay Ignacio, Representative Chris Lee, and many others — nearly 100 speakers in all.

Adding to all these speakers and sessions are the special events that have become trademarks of VERGE. The interactive VERGE Interconnect expo includes a 100 percent renewably powered microgrid, built on-site to power the entire event. It's a hands-on demonstration of the potential of distributed energy and smart systems to be standalone, reliable and cost-effective power resources. The VERGE Accelerate fast-pitch competition elevates early-stage entrepreneurs with innovations aimed at helping Hawaii meet its mandate. The competition is entertaining, dynamic and offers valuable new business opportunities for collaboration between entrepreneurs, government and businesses.

For more information about VERGE Hawaii, visit greenbiz.com/vhawaii16.

DID YOU KNOW?



Hawaii's cities make U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2016 ENERGY STAR Top Cities list.

- Top 25 Cities: Honolulu ranked 22nd
- Top Mid-Size Cities: Honolulu ranked 2nd
- Top Small Cities: Hilo ranked 8th
- Top Small Cities: Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina ranked 9th

ENLIGHTENING NEWS AND ARTICLES



[Businesses, events recognized for their clean-energy focus](#)

(Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 4/23/16)

[HECO opens fifth vehicle charging station](#)

(Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 4/08/16)

[Powered up](#)

(The Garden Island, 4/06/16)

[Kauai utility achieved 27% renewable energy at end of 2015](#)

(Pacific Business News, 4/06/16)

[HECO wants to build smart grid](#)

(Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 4/01/16)

[Ocean energy projects key to getting Hawaii to 100% renewable, state energy czar says](#)

(Pacific Business News, 3/02/16)

[Gov. Ige Joins Governor' Accord for New Energy Future](#)

(Maui Now, 2/16/16)