

ENERGIZE KĀROU

HAWAI'I SITING PERSPECTIVES REPORT | JUNE 2022



HAWAI'I
STATE
ENERGY
OFFICE

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Prepared for

**HAWAI'I
STATE
ENERGY
OFFICE**

Prepared by



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Introduction

This Hawai'i Siting Perspectives Report summarizes all that was learned through a months-long community engagement program designed and implemented by DTL and Stephanie Chang Design Ink, on behalf of, and in collaboration with, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO).

This community outreach and engagement program was designed to accomplish two central goals:

1

To inform community members so that they have a better understanding of Hawai'i's energy ecosystems.

2

To gather mana'o (thoughts, ideas, and opinions) from community members that may serve to inform renewable energy industry stakeholders about how existing and planned energy projects impact communities in Hawai'i.

This Hawai'i Siting Perspectives Report is in furtherance of the second goal. It serves as both a survey of community members' collective perspectives on renewable energy development in Hawai'i and a glimpse into the site-specific perspectives of each community included in this report. There are common themes that all communities share, regardless of their location or demographics—concerns about the high cost-of-living and a desire to be heard and included in the process, for example. At the same time, differences in prioritization from one community to the next confirm that each is unique and deserving of direct engagement. It is recommended that renewable energy industry stakeholders treat the data captured herein as a starting point to help orient them in their own engagement within impacted communities.

This report was prepared by DTL, a Hawaiian strategy studio that strives to utilize methodologies that align with Hawaiian values, traditions, and ways of gathering, organizing, and interpreting information. A core component to this work is the importance of documenting a mo'okūauhau—a genealogy of people and place. A brief historical background for the ahupua'a in which a community is located accompanies the feedback gathered from the various engagements.

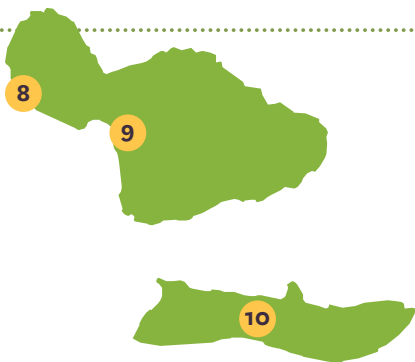
Methodology + Approach

HSEO worked with county energy officers on O‘ahu, Maui, Hawai‘i Island, and Moloka‘i. These are communities where grid-scale renewable energy projects either have been developed, or will be developed.



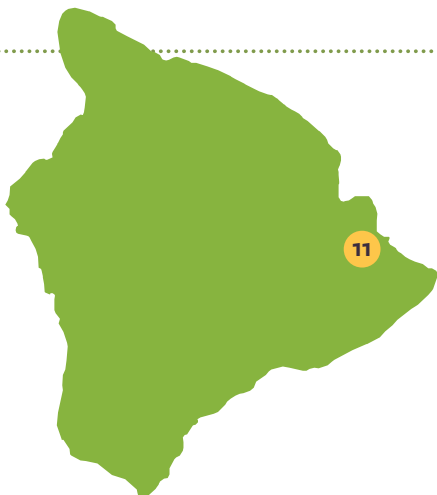
O‘AHU COUNTY

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Wai‘anae | 5) Waipi‘o Village & Kunia |
| 2) Kapolei & Kalaeloa | 6) Mililani |
| 3) ‘Ewa Beach | 7) Kahuku |
| 4) Pearl City | |



MAUI COUNTY

- 8) Lāhainā
- 9) Kīhei
- 10) Moloka‘i



HAWAI‘I COUNTY

- 11) Pāhoa

This report summarizes all that was learned through a course of community engagements that organized around three (3) different formats:

- 1 **Thought Leader Conversations:** A one-on-one conversation was held with thirteen (13) thought leaders representing eleven (11) of the communities included in this report. A thought leader is a community member who is grounded in their community, knows their community well, and has a network through which they communicate with their community.



Thought Leaders

13



Communities

11

These conversations had a loose, talk-story format that in general, followed a line of questioning that sought out information about the following:

- ▶ **Community Pulse:** What's going on in your community, and what are the biggest priorities? How top of mind is energy in your community?
- ▶ **Energy Awareness and Solutions:** What do you think your community wants or needs to understand about energy?
- ▶ **Information Sharing and Gathering:** Where do you get your information, and how is information shared within your community?

A summary of what was relayed by the thought leader in each of these three (3) categories is provided in this report.

¹ The pre-contact Hawaiian economy was completely self-sufficient, supported by a land tenure system that gave people access to the widest possible spread of resources. A fundamental building block of this system was the ahupua'a, which divided each island into subdivisions that radiated outward from the central mountain ranges and cut across each locality's ecological zones. There are exceptions, but the classic ahupua'a is a large, wedge-shaped slice of land with borders running from the mountain peaks to the nearshore fisheries and generally following prominent landforms like ridge lines and valley walls, for example.

- 2 **Focus Group Discussions:** A total of forty-three (43) individuals participated in six (6) focus group discussions – three (3) virtually and three (3) in-person meetings. These meetings were geared towards renewable energy stakeholders who are invested in Hawai‘i’s clean energy future, conduct community engagement in matters related to energy, and are knowledgeable in the energy sector.

In the case of Kahuku and Moloka‘i, there were individuals who weren’t necessarily in the energy industry as a utility company, developer or landowner, but are actively engaged in these conversations to inform how the community and the energy sector can best work together to create solutions for the future.



The driving question for this discussion was: How can the energy industry and community can best work together to move the state to 100% clean energy?

Through a series of five (5) activities, the focus group discussion format was centered around the themes of:

- ▶ **Community Conversations:** What do people say about energy?
- ▶ **Understanding Energy Roadblocks:** What are the major energy system roadblocks or problems you know to be true?
- ▶ **Prioritizing Energy Roadblocks:** In order for our state to reach our 100% renewable energy goals, what does the energy sector most need community input and feedback on?
- ▶ **Offering Energy Solutions:** What are some ideas on how to improve the identified energy systems and problems?
- ▶ **Brainstorming Community Collaboration:** How can communities work more effectively in the energy industry? What is the best way for the community to engage and when?

A summary of what was relayed in the Kahuku and Moloka‘i focus group discussions is provided in this report.

- 3 Community Workshops:** Seven (7) community workshops were held for the public, six (6) in-person and one (1) virtually, in the following communities/regions: Wai‘anae, ‘Ewa, Central O‘ahu, Kahuku, Kīhei, Lāhainā, Moloka‘i, and Pāhoa.



One objective for these workshops was to inform and establish a shared baseline of understanding about the energy ecosystem and Hawai‘i’s energy goals. Each workshop featured a DTL-led presentation that gave a general overview of the energy grid. It included an introduction into the typical energy project timeline from its request-for-proposal stage to its permitting stage. It also incorporated energy conservation and energy efficiency into the conversation to emphasize their importance in achieving the state’s target to meet 100% of Hawai‘i’s electricity needs from renewable sources by 2045.

A second objective was to gather feedback from community members to understand their views on various aspects of renewable energy project development. Community workshop attendees sat together in small groups, and at different points during the workshop, they participated in facilitated discussions and activities that sought to capture their views on the following:

- ▶ **What’s one word that comes to mind when you think of clean energy?**
- ▶ **From the list below, choose your top priority for participating in this clean energy economy.**
 - » Rooftop solar
 - » Energy efficiency tools
 - » Community based renewable energy
 - » General information about renewable energy projects and benefits
 - » Clean energy opportunities
 - » More public EV charging stations
 - » Green workforce training and employment opportunities

- ▶ **From the list below, identify the top 4 features you desire most in a future renewable energy project.**
 - » On existing commercial/industrial land
 - » On low quality agricultural land
 - » On land with already contaminated soil that limits other allowable use
 - » Located out of public viewshed
 - » Enables multi land use opportunities
 - » Built with design standards that protect the environment
 - » Locally owned and operated
 - » Trains and hires with/in the community to operate
 - » Pays workers a living wage
 - » Carries out community engagement early and often
 - » Lowers monthly electric bills
- ▶ **From the list below, choose how you would like the energy industry to support your community.**
 - » Community profit sharing
 - » Contribution to community-directed fund
 - » Community infrastructure
 - » Education contributions
 - » Educational programming
 - » Workforce training and placement
 - » Energy efficiency rebates
- ▶ **What do you want to be preserved in your community?**

A summary of attendees' views at each workshop on these four (4) concerns is provided in this report.



Engagement Summaries

O'AHU | WAI'ANAE



Population:
13,614 people



Households:
3,171



Median Household Income:
\$67,466



Persons per household:
4.04 people



Persons in Poverty:
21%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Waianae CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/waianaecondphawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Wai'anae is a small, tight-knit, multi-generational community located on the Leeward coast of O'ahu. Wai'anae is the name for both the ahupua'a and community of Wai'anae and also the larger moku.

One of the distinct demographic characteristics of Wai'anae (along with the nearby communities of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, and Mākaha) is the area's high proportion of Native Hawaiians: 40.7% of Wai'anae residents identify as Native Hawaiian (and other Pacific Islander) alone, compared to 10.1% statewide; and 39.2% of residents identify as multi-racial, many or most of whom, it can be presumed, include those of part-Native Hawaiian ancestry.

Wai'anae Valley was, in ancient times, the chiefly seat of power for the larger moku (district) of Wai'anae. The district is separated from the rest of O'ahu by the rugged Wai'anae Range, and the ahupua'a of Wai'anae straddles two sides of the Wai'anae Range. The leeward side is Wai'anae Kai, and the name for the opposite, windward mountain slope is Wai'anae Uka.

It is believed that Wai'anae was the first to be inhabited on O'ahu and the most obvious reason was probably because of the fishing grounds. The lush inlands of Mākaha Valley, Mākua Valley, and Wai'anae Valley were popular residences for the rain water that once flowed.

Enough water flowed out of the mountains to support extensive lo'i kalo at the head of the valley. At the shore is Pōka'i Bay, named for a voyaging chief from Kahiki (Tahiti). It is said that he planted a coconut grove near the mouth of Wai'anae Stream, where a large settlement, likely the largest in the entire district, once stood. Near the stream, a fishpond called Puehu was dug

out of the earth and stocked with mullet. This, and other ponds like it that dotted the coast, is what inspired the name Wai‘anae, which literally means “mullet water.”

Standing 4,040 feet high, Mount Ka‘ala is the tallest peak on the island and the most sacred spot on the Wai‘anae Coast. Ka‘ala was the guardian of the road to the west, the path of the sun, and the resting place where spirits of the dead returned to their homeland.

Wai‘anae was also home to a large horse surplus. Early maps indicate that land in Wai‘anae and Mākaha Valley was designated as grazing areas and hence attracted the first outside interest since sandalwood. By the late 1870s, ranching was the leading industry of the Wai‘anae Coast and before turning to sugar. The Wai‘anae Sugar Company was founded in 1878 and cultivated land in the valleys of Mākaha, Lualualei and Wai‘anae.

As production increased, so did water shortages. A trip to Honolulu and back was also problematic. In 1889, Benjamin Dillingham opened the O‘ahu Railway and Land Company and in 1892, the line was 18.5 miles long to the ‘Ewa Sugar Mill.

With these transportation efficiencies, economy was booming alongside the growing demand for coffee and rice. Stealing watermelon and pineapple from the plantations as a prank took a serious turn after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. The very next day, soldiers began guarding the Wai‘anae coastline, turned schools into USOs, and workers moved out. The war created labor shortages for the Wai‘anae Plantation as workers left for the draft and high paying defense jobs.

The military began using parts of Mākua Valley for live-fire training in the 1920s, and after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the military took over full control of the valley to store ammunition.

In 1947, Chinn Ho bought the Wai‘anae Sugar Plantation with plans to transform the Wai‘anae Village into a model community with a new hotel, shopping center, theater, meat market, barber shop, and drug store. Wai‘anae’s population increased from 2,948 residents in 1940 to 7,024 residents in 10 years.

As more land was sold and rent controls were lifted, Wai‘anae became a popular destination for those who couldn’t afford living in town. As more migrants moved west, this only exacerbated the water struggle issues and quickly created a demand for better public service.

When Campbell Industrial opened in 1958, new jobs were available, and populations continued to rise. In 1962, Wai‘anae Elementary was the largest in the state with 2,035 students. During this time, surfers were also traveling from California, Peru and Australia in droves to the leeward coast.

Today, Wai‘anae is home to Pu‘uhonua o Wai‘anae – a village of approximately 250 people, two-thirds of which are native Hawaiian, who are living unhoused near the Wai‘anae Boat Harbor. The army also still has a presence at Mākua and Pīlilaau Army Recreation Center.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the Wai‘anae community featured Eric Enos, a lifelong resident of Wai‘anae and the co-founder and executive director of Ka‘ala Farm, Inc., a community organization that has operated the Cultural Learning Center at Ka‘ala for nearly three decades. He is deeply involved in the perpetuation of Wai‘anae’s cultural and ancestral traditions, like taro farming, as well as the management, care and restoration of the land and sea.



Community Pulse: The biggest priorities in Wai‘anae (and the Leeward coast generally) are securing basic essentials like food, clothing, water, and waste. The threat of long-time residents being pushed out of the community—and the cultural and economic impacts this would have—due to rising real estate costs and competition from non-local buyers is a real concern.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: Energy drives everything, and what community members want is to be a part of the planning process. What they need is to be educated on the issues. To move Hawai‘i one step closer to its 100% renewable energy goal, buy-in from an educated public is needed. It doesn’t matter how good an idea is if the community doesn’t understand and support it. Getting young people involved is also important for organizations like Ka‘ala Farm, which works closely with the youth in a hands-on, place-based classroom setting to tackle and take on the challenges of the future. Energy systems that promote a community’s independence would work well in Wai‘anae.



Information-Sharing and Gathering: Direct communication with community leaders and members either one-on-one or in small groups is most effective.

Wai‘anae Community Workshop

Twenty-one (21) community members attended the in-person Wai‘anae Community Workshop, which was held on May 26, 2022 at the Kamehameha Schools Learning Center at Mā‘ili.



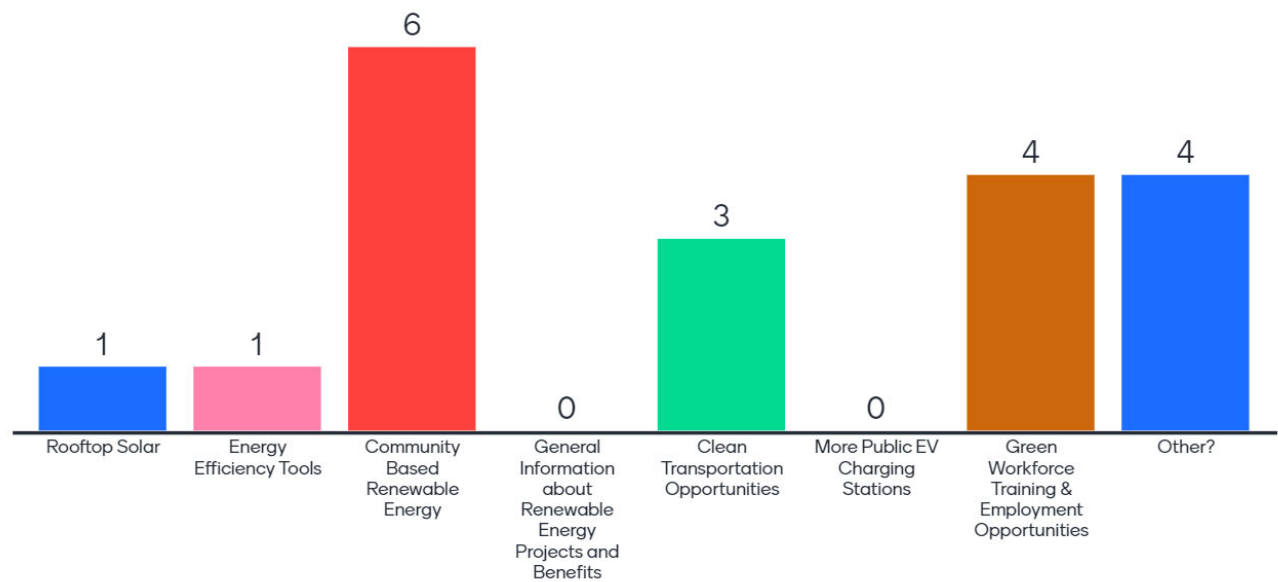
Thursday, May 26th
Kamehameha Schools Learning Center at Mā‘ili



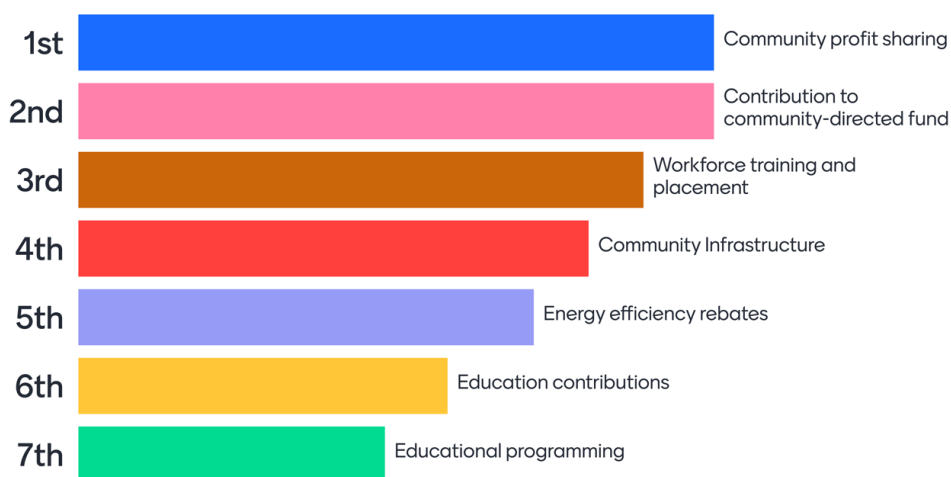
21 community members attended



Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the nineteen (19) respondents, six (6) selected community-based renewable energy as their top priority; four (4) selected green workforce training and employment; three (3) selected clean transportation opportunities; and there was one (1) each for rooftop solar and energy efficiency tools. Four (4) respondents selected “other” as a top priority, which included youth education programs, using rail as a renewable energy generation source, bio-cultural remediation, and housing investments for the unsheltered population in Wai‘anae.



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Eighteen (18) respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Community profit-sharing and contribution to a community-directed fund tied as the top priority. Workforce training and placement ranked third, community infrastructure ranked fourth, energy efficiency rebates ranked fifth, education contributions ranked sixth, and educational programming ranked seventh.



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: The community members at the Wai‘anae workshop were split up into four (4) groups, and each group identified the following elements of a grid-scale energy project as their three (3) top priorities:

Group 1: Be locally owned and operated; lower monthly electric bills; and other—favorably impact the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) homestead communities.

Group 2: Be locally owned and operated; build with design standards that protect the environment; and carry out community engagement early and often.

Group 3: Build with design standards that protect the environment; carry out community engagement early and often; and other—provide a community benefit community benefit in perpetuity (e.g., equity in the company or income opportunity for community)

Group 4: Be locally owned and operated; train and hire within the community to operate; and pay workers a living wage

When combined as one collective group, the top four (4) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Wai‘anae workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 2 Locally owned and operated
- 3 Trains and hires with/in the community to operate
- 4 Carries out community engagement early and often

Wai‘anae Community Vision Statements

To summarize each group’s feedback from the previous exercise, participants were asked to come up with a vision statement or tagline to capture what they want others to know about what their community stands for in an energy ecosystem.



Group 1:

We stand for affordable, renewable energy but not at the cost of the environment or people.

Group 2:

Community-driven, self-owned, environmentally ‘āina-based energy that is collaborative and intentional.

Group 3:

The thriving Wai‘anae moku supports energy projects that positively engage with and support the community, support the health and wealth of the ‘āina, and ensures a legacy is built for the future generations of Wai‘anae.



As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your community?” and the word cloud below reflects those responses for Wai‘anae:



O‘AHU | ‘EWA



Community Background

Three communities located in the moku of ‘Ewa were targeted for engagement: ‘Ewa Beach, Kapolei, and Kalaheo. All three communities are located in the ahupua‘a of Honouliuli, the largest ahupua‘a on O‘ahu.

The ‘Ewa moku is distinguished by its expansive coastal plain, which is surrounded by the deep bays of West Loch and Pearl Harbor. What we now call Pearl Harbor was known by several names. Most common was Keawalau o Pu‘uloa, meaning “the many harbored sea of Pu‘uloa.”

‘Ewa Beach

	Population: 16,415 people
	Households: 3,039
	Median Household Income: \$97,188
	Persons per household: 4.48 people
	Persons in Poverty: 9.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Kapolei CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ewabeachcdphawaii/RH1625221>> (20 May 2022).

Kapolei

	Population: 21,411 people
	Households: 6,090
	Median Household Income: \$115,000
	Persons per household: 3.25 people
	Persons in Poverty: 5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Kapolei CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/kapoleicdp/hawaii/RH1625221>> (20 May 2022).

Kalaheo

	Population: 2,364 people
	Households: 664
	Median Household Income: \$61,579
	Persons per household: -- people
	Persons in Poverty: 21.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Kalaheo CDP, Hawaii; <<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=1600000US1524850>> (20 May 2022).

With approximately 12 miles of marine coastline and 10 miles of upland forests, Honouliuli had, in ancient times, been a thriving agricultural and fishing community. In 1877, the 19th century industrialist James Campbell purchased close to 44,000 acres of land in Honouliuli, much of which was seen as having little value at the time. At first, Campbell used the land for cattle ranching, but soon came the discovery of water beneath an otherwise dry 'Ewa plain, and the drilling of Hawai'i's first artesian wells opened the entire district up to new agricultural possibilities.

In 1889, Campbell leased Honouliuli to Benjamin Dillingham, who co-founded the 'Ewa Plantation Company, which in the 1920s, was one of the most profitable sugar plantations in the world. By the 1930s, it had expanded operations and infrastructure to include villages of plantation homes, schools, and community programs for its multi-ethnic workforce, who came primarily from China, Japan, and the Philippines to 'Ewa, where they raised their families, built communities, and contributed to the rich diversity in culture that's reflected in Hawai'i today.

After World War II, sugar production began to slow. In 1970, the 'Ewa Plantation Company dissolved and its assets were sold to AMFAC (one of Hawai'i's Big Five sugar corporations), which operated the O'ahu Sugar Company. Campbell's landholdings eventually became the property of the Estate of James Campbell (now the James Campbell Company LLC). In 1955, the Estate created a long-range master plan for its 'Ewa landholdings that envisioned a mix of uses, including a new urban core called Kapolei. In its 1977 O'ahu General Plan, the City & County of Honolulu designated 'Ewa a "secondary urban center," as a means of addressing a lack of affordable housing and congestion in Honolulu. Although the 1977 General Plan is seen as the genesis of Kapolei, it was not until 1990 that the Campbell Estate broke ground on the city of Kapolei, often referred to as the Second City.

Development of Kapolei and other parts of Honouliuli has progressed steadily since that time. Development projects in the region run the gamut from residential subdivisions like the Villages of Kapolei, 'Ewa, and Hoakalei/Ocean Pointe to commercial centers like Kapolei Commons, the business parks near the Kalaeloa Harbor, and the industrial zone of Campbell Industrial Park.

With O'ahu's population shifting westward, Kapolei stands out as a community that has seen a greater influx of new residents, due to the expansion of new development projects. Between 2010 and 2020, its population grew by 40 percent. This is more than three times the growth rate of 'Ewa Beach, the next fastest-growing community included in this report.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the ‘Ewa Beach community featured Christiane Bolosan-Yee, a lifelong resident of ‘Ewa Beach and President of ‘Ewa Beach Community Based Development Organization, which she discovered at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. It is a non-profit that assists people having the same dream to make Pu‘uloa the best community it can be.



Community Pulse: The biggest priorities that Christiane sees, in her work as a business consultant, relate to the economic and mental health fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: The topic of energy is on people’s mind to the extent that they are interested in and can afford to install rooftop solar. What the community needs is general information on any renewable energy projects that will affect lands in ‘Ewa, and especially those that might impact the coastline.



Information Sharing and Gathering: When it comes to getting the word out about something a community, banners, flyers, email distribution lists, social media, and school newsletters are all effective forms of information sharing.

The thought leader conversation for Kapolei and Kalaeloa featured Scott Abrigo, President of the Kapolei Community Development Corporation (KCDC) who invited members of the KCDC board to join in this conversation.



“Am I here for you, or are you here for me?”



Community Pulse: The biggest priority is people’s ability to financially maintain their homes and provide a life for themselves and their families.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: On a scale of one to ten, the topic of energy ranks as a four. People are simply trying to make it through the day-to-day. When they think about energy, it’s in terms of cost, their household budgets, and whether they’ll be able to make ends meet and cover their bills every month.

‘Ewa Community Workshop

Fifteen (15) community members attended the in-person ‘Ewa Community Workshop, which was held on May 17, 2022 at the Makakilo Community Park.



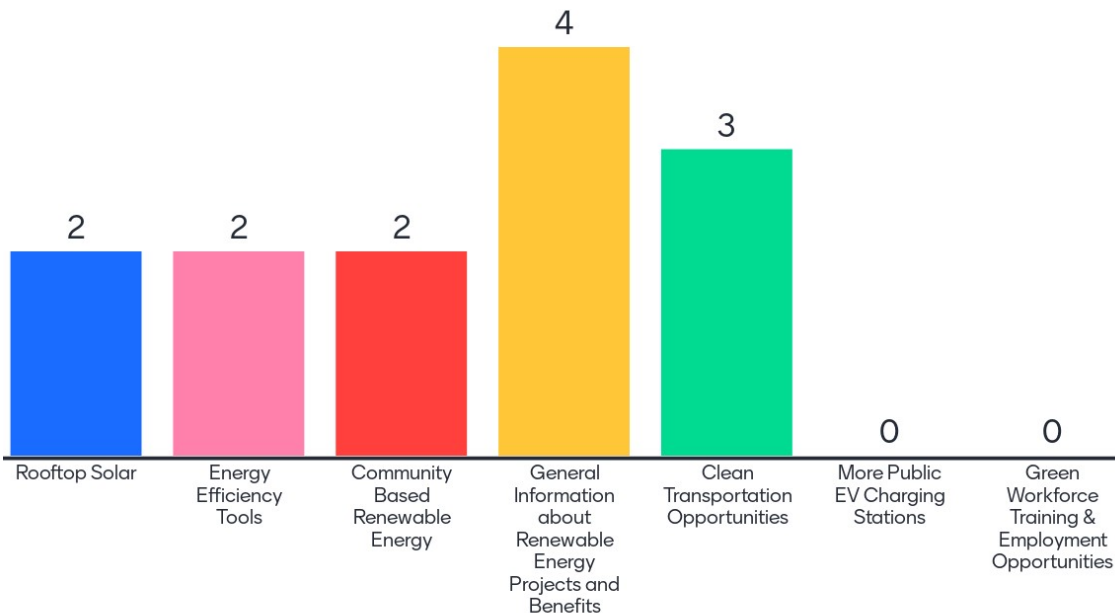
Tuesday, May 17th
Makakilo Community Park



15 community members attended

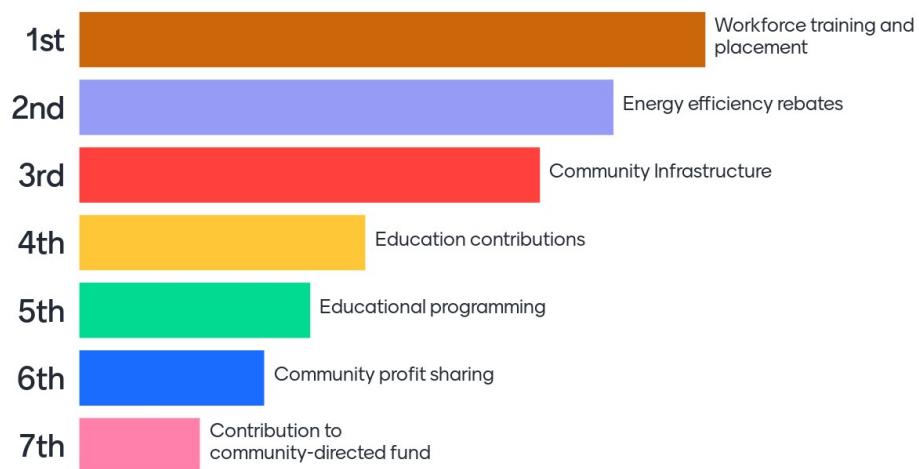


Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the thirteen (13) respondents, four (4) selected general information about renewable energy projects and benefits as their top priority; three (3) selected clean transportation opportunities; and two (2) each selected rooftop solar, energy efficiency tools, and community-based renewable energy as their top priority.



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Thirteen (13) respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Workforce training and placement ranked first as the top priority, energy efficiency rebates ranked second, community infrastructure ranked third, education contributions ranked fourth, educational programming ranked fifth, community profit-sharing ranked sixth, and contribution to a community-directed fund ranked seventh.

The ‘Ewa group’s set of rankings is notable for its sixth and seventh-position rankings for community profit-sharing and contribution to a community-directed fund, both of which ranked in either the first, second, or third positions for Wai‘anae, Pāhoā, and Kahuku. ‘Ewa’s second-place ranking for energy efficiency rebates is higher than the other communities, and it may suggest a stronger preference for adopting renewable energy solutions at the household level



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: The community members at the ‘Ewa workshop were split into three (3) groups, and each group identified the following elements of a grid-scale energy project as their three (3) top priorities:

Group 1: Lower monthly electric bills; carry out community engagement early and often; and build with design standards that protect the environment

Group 2: Pay workers a living wage (and invest in their training); lower monthly electric bills; and carry out community engagement early and often

Group 3: Lower monthly electric bills; locate on land with already contaminated soil that limits other allowable uses; and train and hire within the community to operate

When combined as one collective group, the top four (4) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the ‘Ewa workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Lowers monthly electric bills
- 2 Carries out community engagement early and often
- 3 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 4 Pays workers a living wage

‘Ewa Community Vision Statements

To summarize each group’s feedback from the previous exercise, participants were asked to come up with a vision statement or tagline to capture what they want others to know about what their community stands for in an energy ecosystem.



Group 1:

Promote lowering monthly bills through education and outreach while protecting the environment and being resilient in the design.

Group 2:

Seek first to understand communities’ needs, values, and lifestyle, and enhance economic well-being for current and future generations.

Group 3:

Develop sustainable energy on unusable land that brings down energy costs and raises up our community by providing jobs and opportunities.



As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your community?” and the word cloud below reflects those responses for ‘Ewa:



O'AHU | CENTRAL O'AHU



Royal Kunia

	Population: 14,896 people
	Households: 4,066
	Median Household Income: \$116,035
	Persons per household: 3.41 people
	Persons in Poverty: 3.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Royal Kunia CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/royalkuniacdphawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Waipio

	Population: 12,082 people
	Households: 3,859
	Median Household Income: \$91,458
	Persons per household: 2.76 people
	Persons in Poverty: 4.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Waipio CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/waipiocdp/hawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Mililani Mauka

	Population: 21,075 people
	Households: 6,881
	Median Household Income: \$115,511
	Persons per household: 2.88 people
	Persons in Poverty: 2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Mililani Mauka CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mililanimaukacdphawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Mililani Town

	Population: 28,121 people
	Households: 8,934
	Median Household Income: \$104,409
	Persons per household: 3.07 people
	Persons in Poverty: 4.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Mililani Town CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mililanitowncdphawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Three (3) communities located in the Central O‘ahu were targeted for engagement: Kunia, Waipi‘o Village, and Mililani.

Kunia is located in the ahupua‘a of Honouliuli (described above). Waipi‘o Village and Mililani are located in the ahupua‘a of Waipi‘o, a semi-crescent shaped land district that stretches from the Middle Loch of Pearl Harbor towards O‘ahu’s Central Plateau before bending to the east and converging with the Ko‘olau Mountains at a hill called Pu‘uka‘aumakua, where the districts of Ko‘olaupoko, Ko‘olaupoko, and ‘Ewa meet. A prominent feature in the landscape of Waipi‘o is Kīpapa Gulch, which was made famous by the battles that occurred in the area.

These three (3) communities share a history of pineapple-production. In the 1920s, mechanized pineapple farming led to a steady expansion of growing operations throughout the central plateau that continued through the late-1950s, when at its peak, Hawai‘i produced 80 percent of the world’s pineapple.

As the pineapple cultivation and processing industries grew, labor shortages became severe. The islands’ sugar industry was experiencing the same problem, so in 1919, the Hawaiian Pineapple Growers Association and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association agreed to share the expenses involved in bringing Filipino laborers to Hawai‘i. This resulted in the pineapple industry having had a largely Filipino workforce.

With the need for a stable workforce, the plantations made company-owned housing available to their employees. The residents of the plantation community known as Kunia Camp resided there until 2009, when Del Monte discontinued operations and laid off over 500 workers in late-2006.

In 2009, after Del Monte’s lease expired, the landowner Campbell Estate transferred the property to the Hawai‘i Agricultural Research Center (HARC) for a nominal price on the condition that the property continue to provide affordable rental housing. HARC partnered with Rural Community Assistance Corporation and developed a strategy to preserve, renovate, and transform Kunia Camp into Kunia Village, an affordable housing development serving those who work in the agricultural industry. The first phase of the project was completed in late-2016 with the completion of 82 single-family homes.

Mililani sits on pineapple lands that had previously been owned by Castle & Cooke. In 1958, Castle & Cooke began drawing down its sugar and pineapple operations and using the land for residential development. Mililani was the company’s first master-planned community: a then-novel concept that saw new homes on tree-lined streets with spacious greenspaces and parks, recreational centers with swimming pools, and convenient commercial centers. In 1968, the first homes went up for sale, ranging in price from \$25,000 to \$37,000. At a time when leasehold ownership was all that most O‘ahu residents knew, Mililani made affordable, fee-simple home ownership a reality for many.

The older portion of Mililani, to the west of the H-2 freeway, is known as Mililani Town. The newer portion of Mililani, to the east of H-2, is known as Mililani Mauka. Almost all of Mililani’s commercial and retail centers are in Mililani Town. A third region of Mililani is Launani Valley, a secluded, master-planned development located below Mililani Tech Park. Mililani is home to seven (7) public schools, a handful of private schools and preschools, 21 parks covering more than 100 acres, seven (7) recreation centers, and at least 12 churches. There are also three (3) major shopping centers that offer a range of dining, retail, and other health and service-related options.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the Kunia Village community featured David Robichaux, the president of the Kunia Village Title Holding Corporation and board member of the Kunia Village Development Corporation. At Kunia Village, he manages 150,000 square feet of agribusiness space and 135 housing units that previously served as plantation homes and are set aside as affordable housing for agricultural workers. Along with Mill Camp Development Group, he is restoring the Waialua Mill Camp as affordable rentals that use 100% renewable energy.



Community Pulse: The primary pressure on Kunia Village residents is that it's hard to make a living, and getting people to make farming their career and livelihood takes incentives. It was also noted that Kunia Village used to have a bus stop, but it no longer has one.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: More education is needed. For farmworkers, energy awareness and solutions are a matter of cost. Saving money on electricity bills or getting a rebate on energy is what residents of Kunia Village are likely to care most about. Mr. Robichaux raised the point that renewable energy and food production are both in competition for land in Hawai'i, and the issue remains open for discussion. The North Shore wind farms left community members with a highly critical view of wind energy, and it is unlikely to find support. The revival of plantation camps, powered by diversified and independent energy systems, can lead to more sustainable rural communities.



Information Sharing and Gathering: Kunia Village has a monthly digital newsletter, and a property manager works directly with residents to address any issues. Community meetings in Kunia Village happen on an as-needed basis.

The thought leader conversation for the Waipi'o community featured Kamuela Enos, Director of UH's Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity. He was born and raised in Wai'anae and previously served as the Director of Social Enterprise at MA'O Organic Farms. He is a resident of 'Ewa.





Community Pulse: Simply being able to remain and live in the Waipi‘o community is a priority.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: What community members want is frank and honest conversations. Residents today are very aware of the issues, and they are sensitive to a lack of transparency. They want to participate in the process. At the same time, community members have a kuleana (obligation or responsibility) to treat contemporary systems as learnable and not to retreat from the modern world.



Information Sharing and Gathering: New information is first tested within a network of friends, ‘ohana, and community partners before being shared with the community. Communication with the community must be done so honestly.

The thought leader conversation for the Mililani community featured Aureana Tseu, who was born and raised in Mililani. She is the youngest daughter of Leighton and Iwalani Tseu, who are both culturally active in the local community. A former Ms. Hawai‘i and Merrie Monarch Miss Aloha Hula runner-up, Ms. Tseu is a kumu hula and works at Hanalani School in Mililani as their Hawaiian Culture Advisor.



Community Pulse: Athletics, academics, and community programs for all ages are big priorities in Mililani.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: On a scale of 1 to 10, the topic of energy ranks at a 4. Residents are likely more interested in how it affects them financially as opposed to its environmental impacts, especially in light of the fact that Mililani residents tend to be a little older. Education is needed to explain what “clean energy” or “renewable energy” means, and given the suburban nature of Mililani, organized family-friendly events or school visits might be an effective way to reach people. Data could also be helpful; if residents had better tools with which to see how much energy they’re using and what they might save with a renewable alternative, then that would be persuasive. Not everyone is interested in the environment, but everyone is interested in saving money.



Information Sharing and Gathering: The internet, community magazines, local newspapers, and word-of-mouth are effective ways of sharing information in Mililani.

Community Workshop

The final community workshop was held virtually with the hope of reaching residents of Central O‘ahu. However, just two (2) community members joined the workshop: one (1) from the North Shore of O‘ahu and one (1) was from Hawai‘i Island, so the summary below does not reflect the views of Central O‘ahu residents.

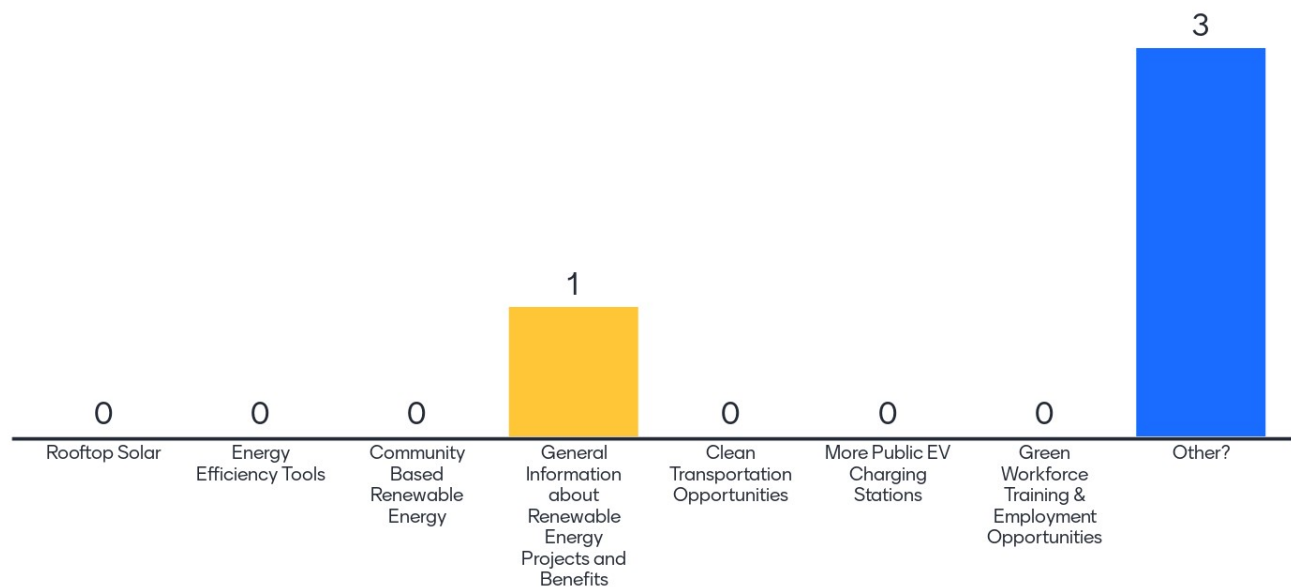


Final community workshop was held virtually

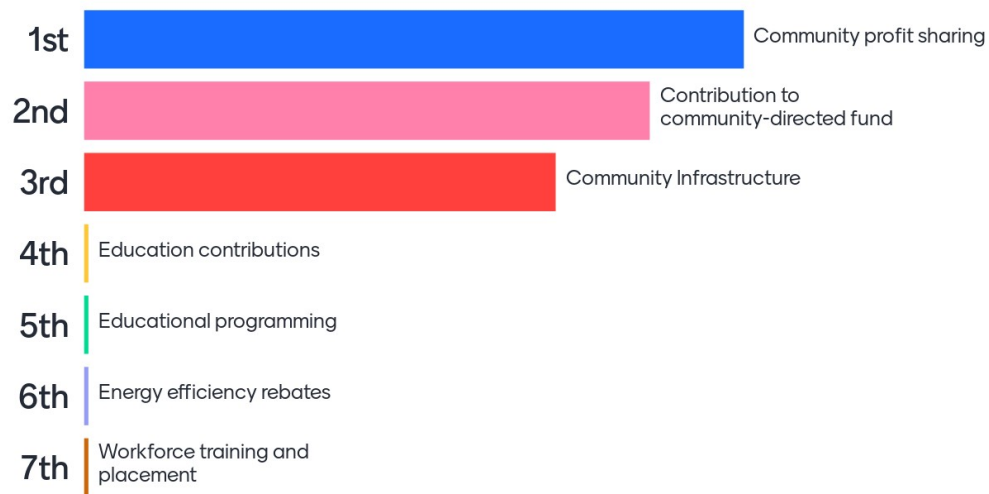


2 community members joined
(1 from the North Shore of O‘ahu and 1 from Hawai‘i Island)

Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Both attendees selected “other” as their top priority. The O‘ahu attendee saw capacity-building and technical assistance for existing community organizations as a priority to enable better coordination around community-led energy development. The Hawai‘i Island attendee was interested in geothermal energy and taking a lifecycle approach to energy.



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Both respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Community profit-sharing ranked first as the top priority, contribution to a community-directed fund ranked second, and community infrastructure ranked third.



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: When combined as one collective group, the top three (3) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Central O‘ahu workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 2 Trains and hires with/in the community to operate
- 3 Locally owned and operated

O'AHU | KAHUKU



Population:
8,852 people



Households:
574



Median Household Income:
\$82,083



Persons per household:
4.52 people



Persons in Poverty:
6.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Kahuku CDP, Hawaii; <<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=1600000US1522250>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Kahuku is located in the moku (district) of Ko'olaupua on the northern and northeastern-most side of O'ahu. It is the name for both the community and the ahupua'a. Like other rural parts of O'ahu, the history of Kahuku since the late-1800s was largely shaped by sugar.

The Kahuku Plantation Company was founded in 1890, and for eight decades, the mill and plantation were the lifeblood of the Kahuku community. Production peaked in 1935, with close to 4,500 acres under cultivation and over 1,100 workers. Several major labor strikes between 1898 and 1941 prompted improvements in community life. Stores, shops, a theater, golf course, gymnasium, and clubhouse came up around the mill. Better houses were built for plantation workers; some still line the highway. Competition from foreign plantations brought about Kahuku Plantation's closure in 1971.

More than any other community on O'ahu, Kahuku has been most impacted by the development of renewable energy. In 2011, Boston-based First Wind developed O'ahu's first wind farm when it constructed twelve (12) turbines in Kahuku. In 2012, the company developed a second wind farm, the Kawaihoa Wind Project, which is a dozen miles from Kahuku and consists of thirty (30) turbines located on former sugar plantation land owned by Kamehameha Schools.

Once the turbines at Kawaihoa went up, their high visibility took North Shore community members by surprise. Ten (10) of the turbines are situated along the ridge that overlooks Waimea Valley, and several of them loom over the highway. Their proximity to a culturally rich area like Waimea left some questioning the turbines' impact. And, as the community later learned, the turbine blades were killing dozens of Hawai'i's only native land mammal species, the 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat).

Just as the North Shore community had begun to digest the visual, cultural, and environmental impacts of living in proximity to two wind farms, a plan to add another ten turbines in Kahuku had been set into motion. Champlin/GEI Wind Holdings, the original developer for the Nā Pua Makani wind project, entered into a power purchase agreement with HECO in October of 2013, the PUC approved it on December 31, 2014. As word of the project made its way through the community, resistance met it from the start. It wasn't simply a matter of aesthetics or harm to the native bat population; the development's proximity to homes and schools set off health and safety concerns, and flaws in the regulatory approval process sent Nā Pua Makani down a long and litigious path. The community's opposition culminated in a month-long standoff in 2019, whereby residents of Kahuku and their supporters locked arms across roadways to prevent delivery trucks from transporting turbine parts.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the Kahuku community featured Sunny Unga, who was born and raised in Kahuku and moved back to the community six (6) years ago. She has a background in social work and took an active role as community advocate in the Nā Pua Makani wind farm development.



Community Pulse: There has been a lack of investment in community infrastructure. For example, Kahuku District Park was supposed to have a recreational facility and public pool. It has been talked about for more than a decade, and community members feel as though Kahuku is too often overlooked. The way in which community voices were ignored in the development of the Nā Pua Makani wind project compounded these feelings. Climate change is another major concern due to sea level rise, which already causes flooding up and down the coast during periods of high surf and tidal activity.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: In light of Nā Pua Makani, residents are more informed and aware of energy issues than ever before. The intention behind the state's 100% renewable energy goal is great, but the industry and government need to approach it from the bottom-up. They need to have the support of the communities that are hosting these projects and make sure that their concerns and needs are not overlooked.



Information-Sharing and Gathering: The Kahuku Community Association is an essential information-sharing and gathering resource.

Roundtable Discussion

On May 10, 2022 a small group discussion was held virtually with four community members in attendance. The meeting program followed the same format as the conversation held with energy leaders.

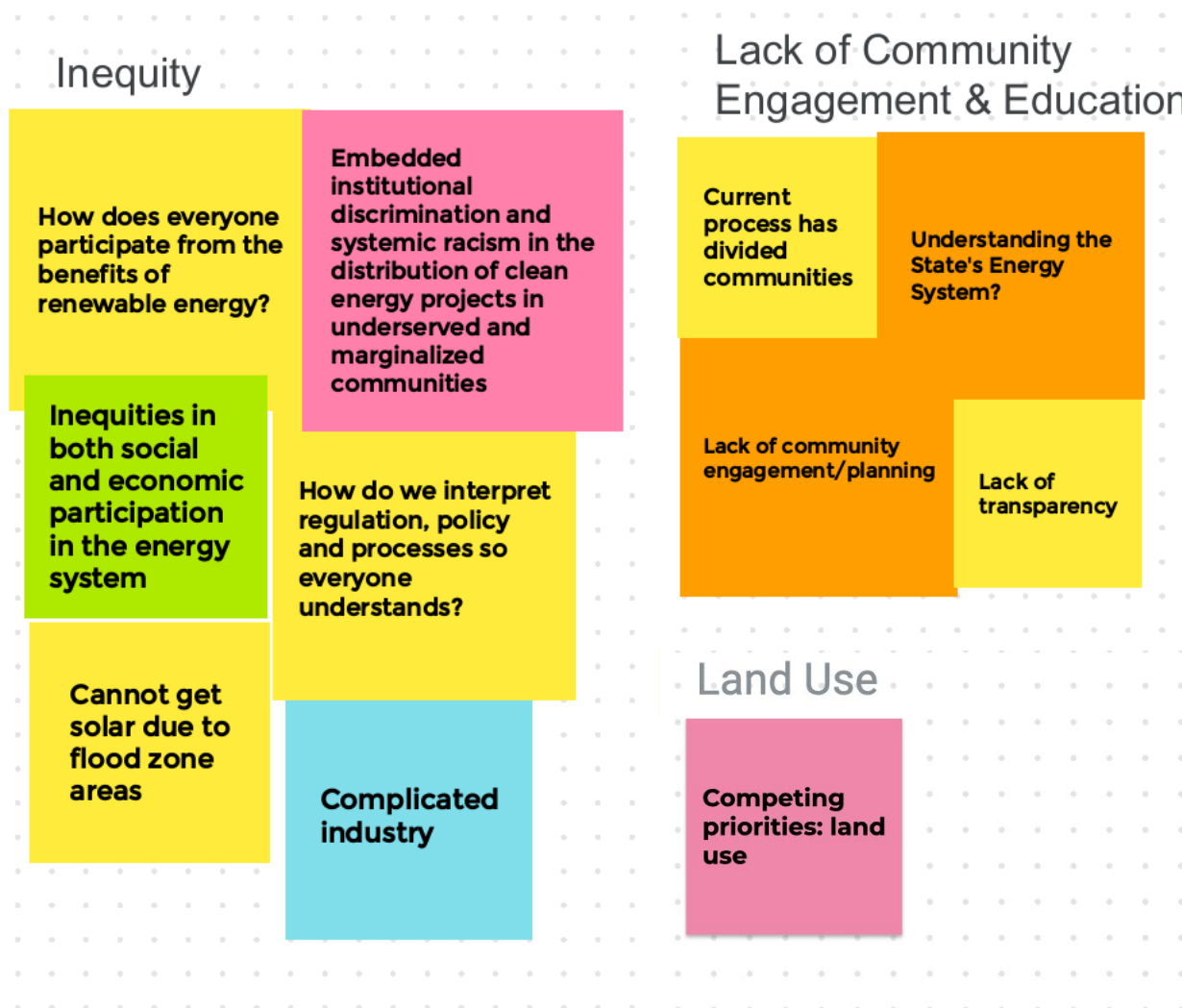


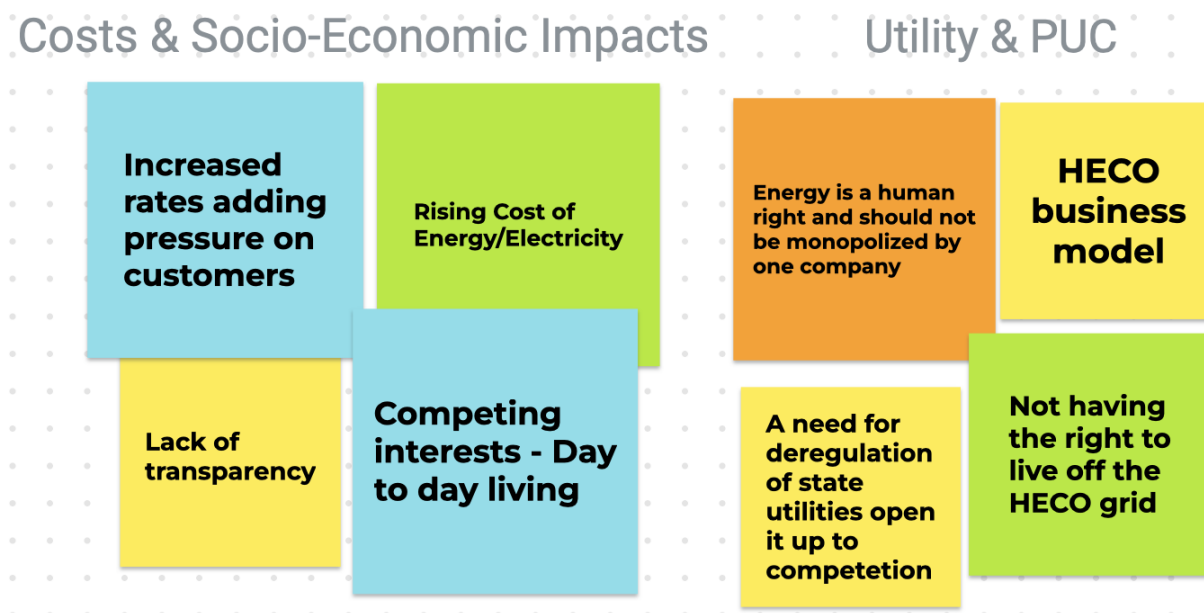
Tuesday, May 10th
Zoom meeting



4 community members joined

Understanding & Prioritizing Energy System Roadblocks: Based on Moloka'i's experience with the energy industry, participants were asked to identify and prioritize the major roadblocks they know to be true. The following themes rose to the top:





Understanding & Prioritizing Energy System Roadblocks: Based on Kahuku’s experience with the energy industry, participants were asked to identify and prioritize the major roadblocks they know to be true. The following five themes rose to the top:

1. **Inequity**

Participants recognize that the renewable energy industry is complicated and it’s sometimes challenging to interpret regulation, policy and processes so everyone understands. The energy system is embedded with institutional discrimination and systemic racism in the distribution of clean energy projects in underserved and marginalized communities. How does everyone benefit from the benefits of renewable energy?

2. **Costs & Socio-Economic Impacts**

With competing interests of day-to-day living, Kahuku participants expressed how increased rates are putting pressure on customers. Why are we still using oil if we have so much sun shining on us?

3. **Land Use**

The renewable energy future is going to be the largest land use shift in history. What are the expectations of everyday residents to participate in the energy conversation when there are so many competing interests including work, kids, sports, etc.?

4. **Lack of Engagement & Education**

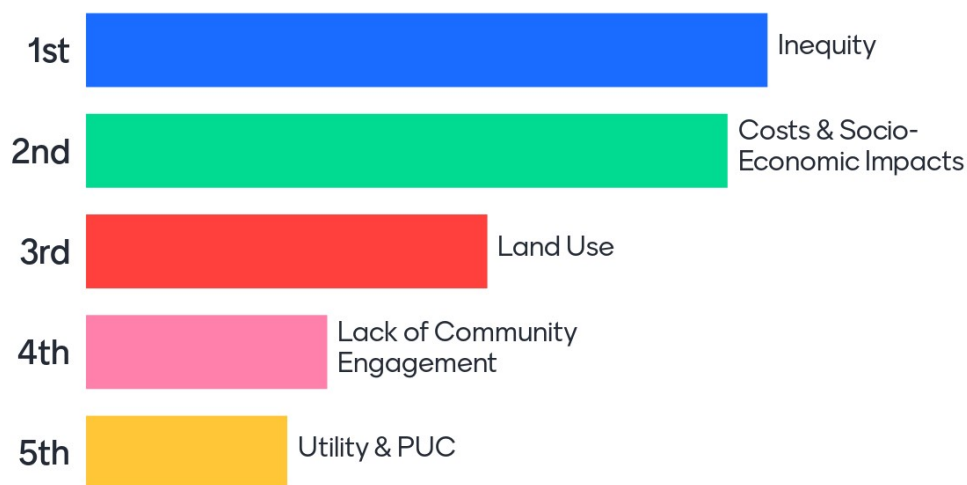
Participants feel that the current process has divided communities and there’s a desire for more transparency and more community engagement and planning. Who are the stakeholders? How do they interact? And how can people make a better, educated decision?

5. **Utility & Public Utilities Commission**

Energy is a human right and should not be monopolized by one company. There’s a need for deregulation of state utilities and to open it up to competition. Hawai’i has the highest use of solar panels, but we pay the most. Are we paying for the energy we’re using or the salaries for HECO executives?

Upon further discussion, the group ranked their top priorities to help our state reach 100% renewable energy.

- 1 Inequity
- 2 Costs & Socio-Economic Impacts
- 3 Land Use
- 4 Lack of Engagement & Education
- 5 Utility & Public Utilities Commission



Solutions for a Clean Energy Future: To move problems to solutions, the Kahuku roundtable participants suggested the following ideas:

- Off the grid
- Microgrids
- Gas still plays a role in emergencies
- Funding for grid infrastructure
- More rooftop solar on homes
- CBRE
- Underground power lines
- Access funding to make these programs sustainable
- Funding for solar

Community Collaboration: For the final activity, Kahuku residents provided their ideas in which the energy industry and community can best work together to move the state to 100% clean energy.

- Meeting the community where they are. The best time to do outreach is after work or on the weekends.
- Introduce yourself, make your intentions know and express how you can help them for future generations
- Don't wait for the community to provide input, it could be too late!
- Create equity by offering compensation for the community to participate. Gas cards, money, gift cards, food, etc.
- Ensure you follow-up with community after the engagement so they know how their input will be used and when future opportunities will be to engage

Information Sharing and Gathering:

- Host Energy Fairs at community centers
- Go to school functions like keiki markets
- Put up posters in doctors' offices
- Send surveys to the community to diminish language barriers
- Handi-vans
- Dialysis centers

Kahuku Community Workshop

Fifteen (15) community members attended the in-person Kahuku Community Workshop, which was held on May 18, 2022 at the Hau‘ula Community Center.



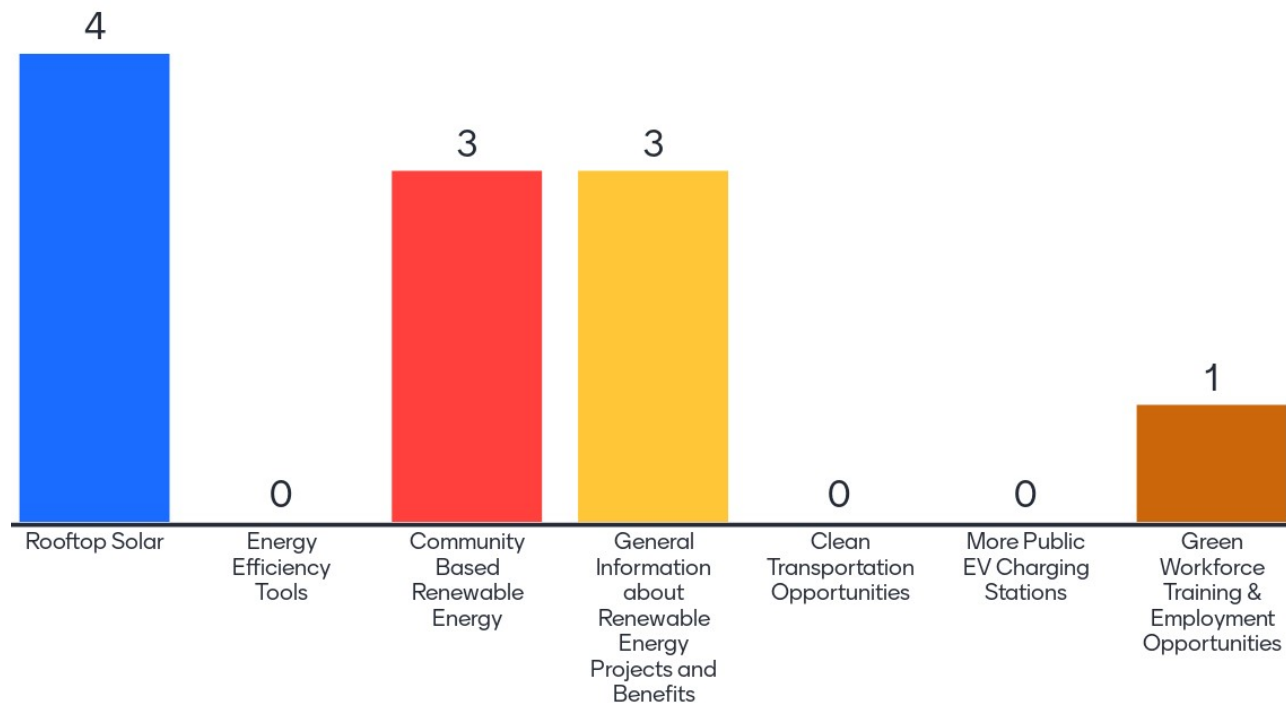
Wednesday, May 18th
Hau‘ula Community Center



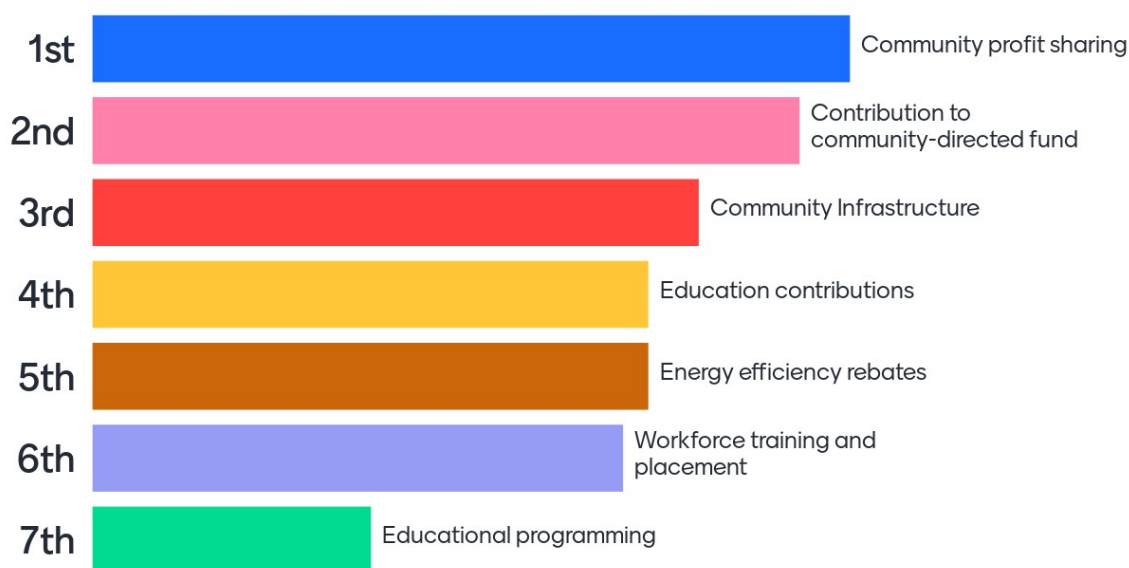
15 community members attended



Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the eleven (11) respondents, four (4) selected rooftop solar as their top priority. Three (3) selected community-based renewable energy. Another three (3) selected general information about renewable energy projects and benefits. One selected green workforce training and employment opportunities.



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Six (6) respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Community profit-sharing ranked first as the top priority, contribution to a community-directed fund ranked second, community infrastructure ranked third, education contributions and energy efficiency rebates tied for fourth, workforce training and placement ranked fifth, and educational programming ranked last.



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: The community members at the Kahuku workshop were split up into two (2) groups, and each group identified the following elements of a grid-scale energy project as their three (3) top priorities:

Group 1: Carry out community engagement early and often; build with design standards that protect the environment; and be locally owned and operated

Group 2: Carry out community engagement early and often; enable multi-land use opportunities; other—distribute energy generation sites equitably

When combined as one collective group, the top four (4) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Kahuku workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Carries out community engagement early and often
- 2 Enables multi land use opportunities
- 3 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 4 Locally owned and operated

Kahuku Vision Statements

To summarize each group's feedback from the previous exercise, participants were asked to come up with a vision statement or tagline to capture what they want others to know about what their community stands for in an energy ecosystem.



Group 1:

Establishing a resilient and sustainable Kahuku involves locally-owned and operated renewable energy projects that honors the culture, and concepts of equity and environmental justice. We believe in community-led projects through a process founded on community consent, meaningful participation, engagement, and input.

Group 2:

Kahuku will be a leader for equitable geographical distribution of energy-generating sites that engage the community and enable multi-land use opportunities that empower individuals' own energy use.



As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your community?” and the word cloud below reflects those responses for Kahuku:



MAUI | LĀHAINĀ



Population:
12,702 people



Households:
3,618



Median Household Income:
\$76,951



Persons per household:
3.54 people



Persons in Poverty:
9.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Lahaina CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lahainacdp/hawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Lāhainā is the name for both the city and the larger moku, which is comprised of some two dozen ahupua‘a. Despite being located on Maui’s dry, leeward side, Lāhainā achieved a high state of cultivation and status in ancient Hawai‘i. Famously shaded by groves of ‘ulu (breadfruit) trees, Lāhainā town is depicted in historical accounts as a picturesque village favored by the ali‘i (chiefly class). The town was chosen as the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1820 by King Kamehameha II, and it remained the capital until 1845.

Lāhainā translates to mean “cruel sun” (lā-hainā). It’s said to be named for the droughts that would dry up the land. Another, likely older, name for Lāhainā is Lele. “Lele” is the Hawaiian word for a jumping, flying, or leaping motion, and one explanation for it relates to the fact that the ali‘i would travel in and out of Lāhainā for short visits, akin to island-hopping.

Lāhainā has long been a center of trade and industry in Hawai‘i—first with whaling, then sugar, and now tourism. Hawai‘i’s whaling period began in circa 1819. It lasted for much of the 19th century and peaked in 1846. The business of sugar started to ramp up around the time of the U.S. Civil War, which brought sugar production in Louisiana to a halt and created an opening in the market for Hawaiian sugar between 1860 and 1866. Pioneer Mill Company was the major sugar producer in West Maui for more than 125 years, and it’s during this period that the predecessor to Pioneer Mill began.

Throughout the early-1900s, the plantation expanded, developing land and water resources, and enhancing its planting, harvesting, and milling operations. It acquired as much land as it could, and when the land couldn't be bought outright, it entered into leases. By 1935, it owned 5,500 acres planted with cane, plus 8,000 acres of forest and other land, along with 5,000 additional acres under lease. Plantations operated under a perquisite system, which meant that plantation owners supplied workers with the basic necessities of housing, medical care, and, in some cases, food, but they paid very low wages. Housing came in the form of camps, and most of the Pioneer Mill workers and their families lived in one of the two dozen or so camps situated between Lāhainā and Honolulu.

After World War II, Maui saw a steady decrease in population as the sugar and pineapple industries began to decline and opportunities on O'ahu and the U.S. mainland drew residents, younger ones in particular, away. This prompted a search for new sources of industry that led to tourism.

At the time, Maui was not on many visitors' itineraries. In fact, in the 1950s, it was the least visited island, and one of the biggest barriers to capturing a greater share of the Hawai'i visitor market was Maui's lack of hotel accommodations. In 1953, Amfac (Pioneer Mill's parent company) conducted a study that looked at the feasibility of a planned destination resort on four hundred acres of its beachfront land in Kā'anapali. In a radical departure from the Waikīkī model, Kā'anapali was designed to be less dense and more exclusive, with green, open vistas; designated pockets of shopping, dining, and leisurely activities; and beaches that privileged guest access.

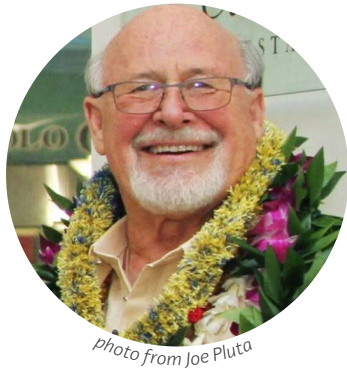
By the 1990s, the prospects of growing and processing sugarcane on Maui profitably had turned dim. Pioneer Mill had been positioning itself for this new reality by not only diversifying into resort development, but also by experimenting with other crops like coffee. Five hundred acres were planted with coffee trees, but before the product could be processed and marketed, the plug was pulled on Pioneer Mill. It closed in 1999 and the nascent Kā'anapali Estates Coffee business shuttered in 2001.

One of the key defining features of the travel and hospitality industry over the last decade has been the rapid growth of the short-term rental sector. In Hawai'i, vacation rentals are under increasing scrutiny as more and more question whether the sector's costs are supported by the benefits. Maui has long had a housing affordability problem, and vacation rental units (VRUs) only make that situation worse. VRUs spread tourism to parts of Maui that were previously shielded from it, much to the dismay of locals who must then grapple with the transitory nature of visitor travel, which can bring increased traffic, conflict, and a sense of alienation.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the Lāhainā community featured Joe Pluta, who has lived on Maui since 1979. Mr. Pluta is the founder and president of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, a non-profit that provides an organized voice of support for public and private improvements which have potential benefit for the West Maui community from Lāhainā to Kapalua.



Community Pulse: Lack of affordable housing is at the top of people’s minds in Lāhainā, and it has been this way for the last decade, but very little has been done to improve the situation.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: Energy isn’t as high of a priority for community members as it should be, but anyone who pays an electric bill has energy on their mind, and people want to know what is being done to reduce the cost. The solar projects that have been completed in West Maui so far have been a success, and there needs to be more incentives for renewable energy developers.



Information-Sharing and Gathering: Information is shared through social media, the Maui County website, Maui News, the Rotary Club, Maui Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Lodging Association, Maui Visitors Bureau, and West Maui Taxpayers Association.

Lāhainā Community Workshop

The workshop in Lāhainā, held on May 9, 2022 at the Lāhainā Civic Center, was the very first in-person public meeting, and there was limited time to do adequate promotion. The meeting was also the only meeting held on a Monday (after Mother's Day), a day typically avoided for engagement.

Just four (4) people attended, only one of whom was a Lāhainā resident. Another participant was a representative from Hawaiian Electric. The presentation and activities for this meeting differed from the final presentation and activities that followed this kick-off meeting, so the answers are difficult to compare amongst the rest of the engagement efforts.



Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the eleven (11) respondents, four (4) selected rooftop solar as their top priority. Three (3) selected community-based renewable energy. Another three (3) selected general information about renewable energy projects and benefits. One selected green workforce training and employment opportunities.

Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: From a list of 11 features, Lāhainā workshop participants were asked to evaluate which 4 features they most desire in a future renewable energy project.

- Locally owned and operated
- Carries out engagement early and often
- Pays workers a living wage
- On existing commercial land
- On roofs of parking lots at schools or churches to avoid permitting

When combined as one collective group, the top three (3) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Lāhainā workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Carry out community engagement early and often
- 2 Multi use land opportunities
- 3 Existing commercial properties

Preferences for Developer Support: From a list of seven options, participants were asked how they would like the renewable energy industry to support their community: 1) community profit sharing; 2) contribution to a community-directed fund; 3) community infrastructure; 4) education contributions; 5) educational programming; 6) workforce training and placement; and 7) energy rebates. Out of these seven options, community members were most interested in having the energy industry support their communities with local jobs, education and training, and project-specific community outreach.

As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your



resilience
sense of community
natural resources
self sufficiency
fish ocean

MAUI | KĪHEI



	Population: 21,423 people
	Households: 8,144
	Median Household Income: \$84,708
	Persons per household: 2.77 people
	Persons in Poverty: 9.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Kihei CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/kiheicdp/hawaii/RHI625221>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Kīhei is located in the moku of Kula in an area that has traditionally been called Kula Kai. Situated along Maui’s southwestern shore, the city of Kīhei traverses the makai (seaward) zone of several ahupua’a, including, from north to south, Pūlehunui, Waiakoa, Ka’ono’ulu, Waiohuli, Kēōkea, and Kama’ole. This region was never one of Maui’s population centers, but because of its excellent fishing grounds and fishpond-friendly wetland conditions, it sustained smaller settlements of Hawaiians throughout its history.

One of the few remaining loko i’a (fishpond) on Maui is called Kalepolepo (aka Kō’ie’ie), and it is located along the shoreline at the southern edge of Ka’ono’ulu. It’s believed that continued use of this and several nearby fishponds began in the middle-to-late-1500s and lasted through the late-19th century. The Kula Kai shoreline was also famous for its limu (seaweed). It washed up along the beaches in massive clumps where it was carefully gathered and enjoyed along with fish, poi, and other staples.

As the visitor industry began to establish itself in West Maui, business and political leaders set their sights on Kīhei as the island’s next residential, resort, and job center. It had been a former plantation camp, and in the late-1960s, the coastal area remained largely undeveloped with a small population of approximately 1,600.

In 1970, Maui County prepared the Kihei Civic Development Plan, a long-range plan that guided development of the region through 1990. The plan proposed a significant amount of development, all feeding onto South Kihei Road that—coupled with a linear pattern of single-use commercial, residential, and hotel zoning across the entire region—laid the foundation for the transportation problems and urban sprawl conditions that characterize the region today. The plan also designated nearby Wailea as a major resort community, setting the stage for the real estate speculation, land development, and population boom that followed.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

There were two (2) Kīhei thought leader conversations, one with Rob Weltman and another with Kimokeo Kapahulehua.

Rob Weltman has owned a home in Kīhei for twenty-two years and has lived there full-time for nine. Mr. Weltman served as chair for the Sierra Club Maui between 2016 and 2020. He also serves on the Maui County Council's Climate Advisory Committee and is a board member for the Kīhei Community Association.



Community Pulse: In South Maui, residents think about power outages and the price of electricity. There are more and more electric vehicles on the road, but there are too few public charging stations.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: Until very recently, energy was not top of mind. On a scale of 1 to 10, it is still probably not more than a 3 or 4. It wasn't until Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) announced that replacement generator parts for its Ma'alaea power plant may soon be unavailable and that its Kahului power plant will be decommissioned that people started to pay attention. The community needs to know more about what the roadmap will look like in getting Maui to 100% renewable energy and what impact it will have on people's energy bills.

Paeahu Solar is one of the higher profile energy projects in South Maui. The developers did extensive community outreach. They reached out to various community associations and groups. Mr. Weltman personally had several meetings with them and was even able to visit the site. Nevertheless, it was still met with pushback, and it illustrates the challenges that high visibility projects face.

The Kīhei community can help the state achieve its renewable energy goals in the following ways: 1) expanding the opportunities for rooftop solar and shared solar in condo-heavy Kīhei, and 2) locating grid-scale solar farms in places where community impact is minimal.



Information Sharing and Gathering: The community associations are a great way to share information, but they lack the expertise when it comes to energy, so information should be provided by a trusted third-party expert or the government.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

Kimokeo Kapahulehua is a cultural practitioner and educator. He has long been active in the wa'a (canoe-paddling) community, and he recently helped to establish Nā I'a O Ke Kai, a cultural education program for youth at Kīhei's Kalepolepo fishpond.



Community Pulse: Affordable housing is a top concern, and related to that is the cost of energy. Traffic is a concern. Also of note is the fact that Kīhei has care homes for kūpuna, but there is no senior housing.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: Because of the recent rate increase by Maui Electric Company (MECO), energy is at the top of people's mind. In the transition to clean energy, the cost to the consumer needs to come down. The energy projects that have stalled are not doing a good job of community engagement. Developers should be engaging with the community associations and holding public meetings. When there are benefits for the community, and when there is cultural alignment, the community will support it.



Information Sharing and Gathering: The Kīhei, Ma'alaea, Wailea, Maui Meadows, and Makena Community Associations are vital sources of information. Other important outreach networks include the Hawaiian civic clubs, other cultural clubs, and churches.

Kīhei Community Workshop

Fifteen (15) community members attended the in-person Kīhei Community Workshop, which was held on May 10, 2022 at the Kīhei Community Center.



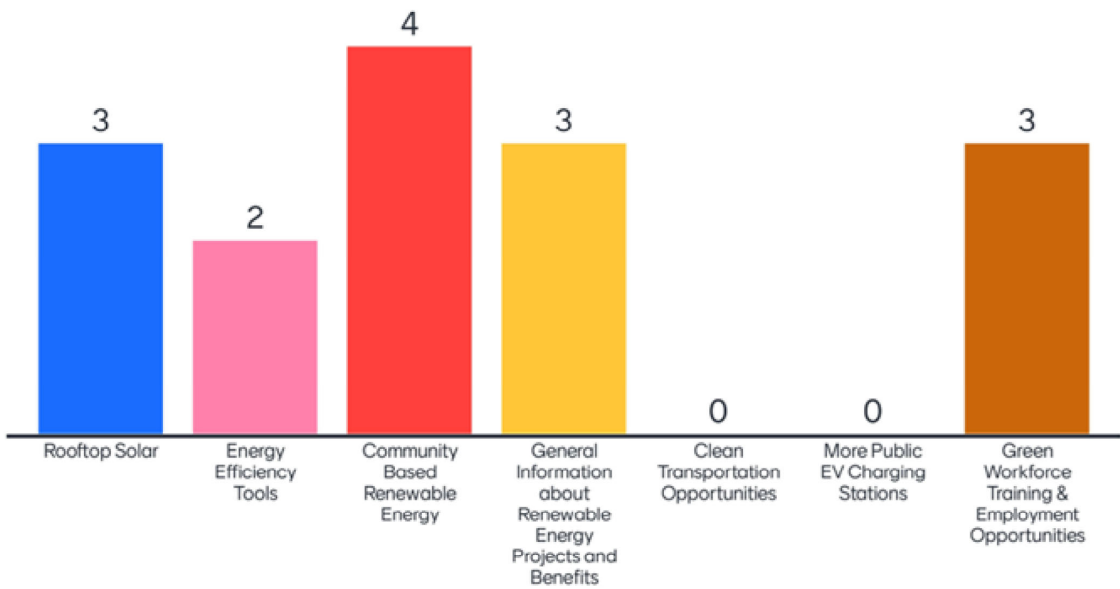
Tuesday, May 10th
Kīhei Community Center



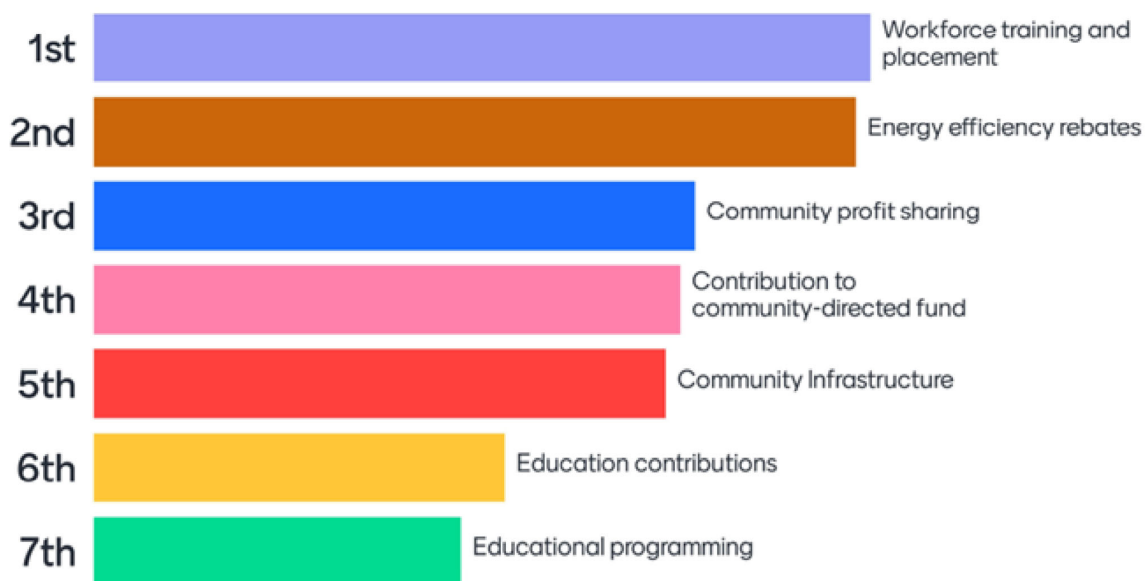
15 community members attended



Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the fifteen (15) respondents, four (4) selected community-based renewable energy as their top priority. Three (3) selected general information about renewable energy projects and benefits. Another three (3) selected rooftop solar. Another three (3) selected green workforce training and employment opportunities. And two (2) selected energy efficiency tools. No one selected clean transportation opportunities or more public EV charging stations



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Fifteen (15) respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Workforce training and placement ranked first as the top priority, energy efficiency rebates ranked second, community profit-sharing ranked third, contribution to a community-directed fund ranked fourth, community infrastructure ranked fifth, and education contributions ranked sixth, and educational programming ranked last.



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: The community members at the Kīhei workshop were split up into three (3) groups, and each group identified the following elements of a grid-scale energy project as their three (3) top priorities:

Group 1: Build with design standards that protect the environment; lower monthly electric bills; train and hire within the community to operate

Group 2: Train and hire within the community to operate; carry out community engagement early and often; and locate on existing commercial or industrial land

Group 3: Build with design standards that protect the environment; train and hire within the community to operate; and locate on existing commercial or industrial land

When combined as one collective group, the top four (4) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Kahuku workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Carries out community engagement early and often
- 2 Enables multi land use opportunities
- 3 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 4 Locally owned and operated

Kīhei Vision Statements

To summarize each group's feedback from the previous exercise, participants were asked to come up with a vision statement or tagline to capture what they want others to know about what their community stands for in an energy ecosystem.



Group 1:

We want economically equitable and grid-scale projects that protect the environment, support the local economy, and lower cost for the individual and community.

Group 2:

Community will accept and carry the kuleana to ensure our health for generations to come.

Group 3:

Investment in our people is an investment in our future. Use existing developed spaces and places by the people, for the people. Empower to get power.



As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your community?” and the word cloud below reflects those responses for Kīhei:



MOLOKA'I

East Moloka'i



Population:
4,441 people



Households:
1,474



Median Household Income:
\$52,991



Persons per household:
3.34 people



Persons in Poverty:
17.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, East Molokai CCD, Hawaii; <<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=06000000US1500990090>> (20 May 2022).

West Moloka'i



Population:
2,846 people



Households:
808



Median Household Income:
\$41,667



Persons per household:
3.52 people



Persons in Poverty:
30.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, West Molokai CCD, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=West%20Molokai%20CCD,%20Maui%20County,%20Hawaii>> (20 May 2022).



Community Background

Moloka'i is unique among the main Hawaiian Islands for its rural and self-reliant character where the subsistence economy is still very much a part of life. A commitment to preserving the island's unique identity is widely shared among Moloka'i's people, who are unafraid to challenge projects, whether energy or otherwise, that do not align with their lifestyle.

The communities of Moloka'i today are generally situated in and around four (4) country towns. Pūko'o was the first county seat on the island and is located on the Mana'e, or East End of the island. Kaunakakai, presently the island's main town, lies centrally along the southeastern coastline. Kualapu'u, which was once a pineapple plantation town, is situated on the slopes above the Ho'olehua plain. Its sister plantation town of Maunaloa is located on the West End in the ahupua'a of Kaluako'o.

Moloka'i is where the very first homesteading tracts under the Hawaiian Home Lands program were established. Led by a mission to rehabilitate Native Hawaiians through family-run farms, the program launched in 1922 under a five-year trial period, which brought dozens of families to Kalama'ula in 1922 and Ho'olehua and Pala'au in 1924.

Jobs have typically been scarce on Moloka'i, and many families have long relied on fishing, hunting, gathering, and/or cultivating foods as a supplement. Not only have these subsistence practices helped to preserve traditional Hawaiian cultural values, customs, and knowledge, they reinforce a sense of protection over the island's natural resources, which are essential for residents' survival.

One of the biggest influences on the economy of Molokaʻi has been the Molokai Ranch. It was established shortly after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1897 by a group of men who were initially interested in growing sugar. They purchased 70,000 acres of land from the Bishop Estate and leased another 30,000 acres from the government (which was then the Republic of Hawaiʻi). The operation quickly ran into trouble when water being pumped from underground wells went from fresh to brackish to salty. After the demise of the sugar enterprise, the company moved its headquarters from Kaunakakai to Kualapuʻu and focused on raising cattle.

The Ranch eventually got into the visitor industry with the development of the Molokai Lodge, a golf course, and other accommodations. These were abruptly shut down in 2008 in reaction to residents' unyielding opposition to the company's plans to develop a 200-lot luxury subdivision on 500 acres of beachfront land at Laʻau Point, a peninsula on the West End.

For decades, the most successful agricultural crop, and an economic engine for Molokaʻi, was pineapple. In 1923, Molokai Ranch executed its first pineapple lease with Libby, McNeill & Libby for lands in Kaluakoʻi above the 500-foot elevation. The village of Maunaloa was founded here to house workers. In 1927, the California Packing Corporation (later renamed the Del Monte Food Corporation) leased Molokai Ranch lands in Nāʻiwa and Kahanui for its pineapple operation, which was headquartered in Kualapuʻu. The Libby plantation was the first to close in the 1970s, followed by Del Monte, which wound down operations between 1982 and 1989.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

Tehani Kaalekahi was born and raised on Moloka‘i. She is a fourth-generation Ho‘olehua homesteader and returned to the island in 2021 to serve as the executive director for Sust‘āinable Molokai, non-profit community development organization committed to restoring ‘āina momona (abundant land) through programs centered around food security and sovereignty, agricultural education, energy resilience, conservation, and conscious climate change.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: On a scale of 1 to 10, energy ranks between an 8 and 10 in priority in the community. The high cost of energy on Moloka‘i is a major concern, and education is needed to help people understand why it’s so costly and what can be done to address it. There used to be a rooftop solar program, which resulted in energy cost savings for some but not others, leaving them feeling as though they had been “ripped off.” One of the challenges with community outreach on Moloka‘i is reaching the whole island and not just parts of it.



Information Sharing and Gathering: Information is shared through social media and the Moloka‘i Dispatch newspaper. Mailers can be an effective way to reach people, along with Sust‘āinable Molokai’s calendar of events.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

There were two (2) Moloka'i thought leader conversations, one with Kalehua Sproat-Augustiro and another with Tehani Kaalekahi.

Kalehua Sproat-Augustiro was born and raised on Moloka'i and comes from a large family with close ties to the community. She is an entrepreneur and small business owner and joined the Hawai'i State Energy Office's Clean Energy Wayfinders program in 2022.



Community Pulse: Protecting and preserving Moloka'i unique way of life is a priority; change is difficult for the community. There is a group that is spearheading the shift to clean energy, and the group includes folks who are trusted by people in the community.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: Energy is expensive on Moloka'i. Even if a renewable energy project were to bring costs down, there may be a willingness to maintain the status quo and pay higher prices if it means that things will not change. The community wants to do better for the 'āina, so questions around land use impacts in solar or wind farm development are a chief concern. Successful projects are mindful of Moloka'i's people and have their best interests at heart. They employ people who are either from the community or respected by the community.

As a tight-knit community, Moloka'i can mobilize and make things happen quickly, and there are a lot of people who want to see the island become a model in renewable energy. Community members know that if they don't do it, then someone from outside the community will.



Information Sharing and Gathering: Information is shared through social media, Facebook and Instagram in particular. Facebook community pages have strong engagement on Moloka'i.

Roundtable Discussion

On April 22, 2022, a roundtable discussion was held virtually with five (5) community members in attendance. The meeting program followed the same format as the conversation held with energy leaders.

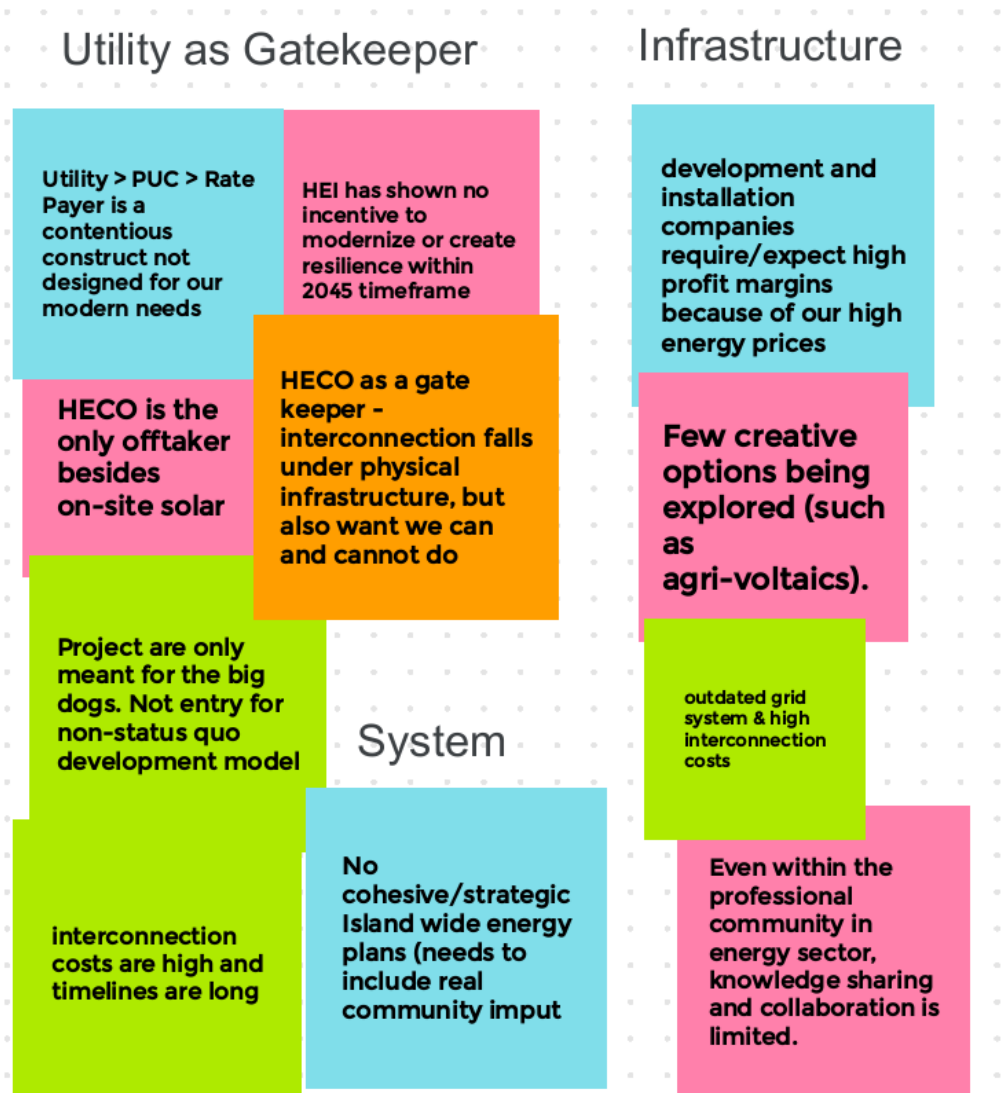


Friday, April 22th
Zoom meeting



5 community members attended

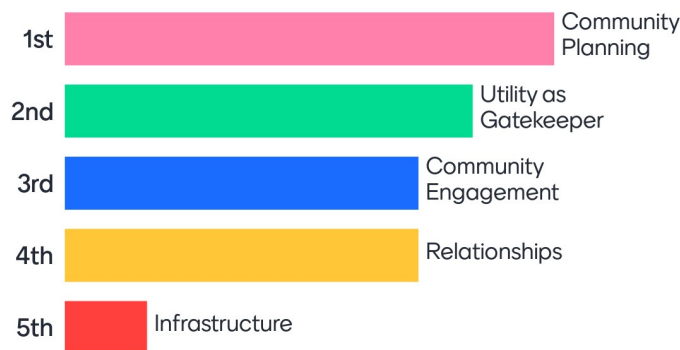
Understanding & Prioritizing Energy System Roadblocks: Based on Moloka'i's experience with the energy industry, participants were asked to identify and prioritize the major roadblocks they know to be true. The following themes rose to the top:





- **Utility as a gatekeeper**
Hawaiian Electric is viewed as both physically and contractually a gatekeeper that controls what communities can and cannot do. There's frustration that projects are only meant for the "big dogs" and there's no entry for non-status quo development models.
- **Infrastructure**
Community members expressed a lack of creative options being explored, there's an outdated grid system and interconnection costs are high and timelines are long. Community-based solutions usually cost more when they have to compete with utility-scale solutions. Large companies also require higher margins because of Hawai'i's high energy costs.
- **Relationships**
A lack of trust, transparency, and translation between the community and the utility. This contentious relationship stems from Hawaiian Electric's involvement in the Overthrow. The sentiment from Moloka'i community members is that there's limited knowledge sharing and collaboration between both entities, and energy in Hawai'i is all about extraction.
- **Community Engagement**
Maybe the process has outreach built in, but perhaps people running the projects don't see why their engagement is insufficient or problematic. There's also a lack of inclusion, and also confusion, about how community input will be included in the design of the energy decision making process. "It's not community engagement if nobody shows up. That means you're not doing it properly."
- **Community Planning**
With most plans in our state, there's a top-down planning approach, but often those plans don't include the "on the ground" details and there's a desire for grassroots organizations to develop those plans.

Activity #4: PRIORITIZING ENERGY ROADBLOCKS



To help our state reach 100% renewable energy, the group ranked their top priorities as such:

- 1 Community Planning
- 2 Utility as a Gatekeeper
- 3 Relationships

“We wouldn’t be here volunteering and spending all these hours if we weren’t responding to an acute community need. We are here because we have to be here. This is survival for us.”

Solutions for a Clean Energy Future: To move problems to solutions, the Moloka'i roundtable participants suggested the following ideas:

- We need an advocate and a navigator (to help chart the course, but not dictating where it goes). Otherwise, it feels like we're doing heavy lifting for someone else. It feels extractive. For our community, our outcome needs to be action.
- Create equity by having conversations to make the community feel like they have a choice, it will give communities more confidence.
- To approach the community, education is key. It takes years to build the knowledge.
- If you want people to be engaged, it cannot feel like they're being extracted from, rather the community must do some of the work/planning with advocates and have a real stake in the project.
- HSEO can provide resources for the communities to hire their own planners and experts.
- A lot of busy work around community organizing, so if HSEO can help with those logistical details, then it will be hard to find community volunteers for that work.
- Figure out how to arrange compensation so community members don't feel bad for accepting compensation and feeling like a "sell out."

”

“You cannot just ask someone for a question, you must be with them long enough to hear their idea.”

”

Community Collaboration: For the final activity, Moloka'i residents provided their ideas in which the energy industry and community can best work together to move the state to 100% clean energy.

- One idea for successful engagement is to take time for proper introductions. Ask attendees to share what their intentions are when coming to this meeting. Ask participants to share about their schooling, work, and volunteer experience. For the Moloka'i community, because it's a small island so pilina-based, meetings can go quickly wrong because they didn't establish the relationships, pilina, and trust from the start.
- Another idea for effective online engagement is to create a baseline education platform to make Zoom time more effective so people can review content previously covered in prior sessions before coming to the table.
- There are so many different ways to reach different parts of the community, and Moloka'i has been open to trying everything that the community has suggested. "We have nothing to lose."

HAWAII | PĀHOA



Population:
924 people



Households:
428



Median Household Income:
\$27,708



Persons per household:
2.73 people



Persons in Poverty:
19.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; QuickFacts, Pahoa CDP, Hawaii; <<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pahoacdphawaii/RH1625221>> (20 May 2022).

Community Background

Pāhoa is located in the moku of Puna, which stretches southward from the suburbs of Hilo. Puna's natural environment is dominated by volcanic activity, unique geological events and formations, and a variety of plant communities that provide habitat for native species. It's an area that holds great cultural significance due to its close association with Pele, the volcano goddess who, according to traditional Hawaiian lore, dwells at Kīlauea.

The town of Pāhoa was founded in circa 1900, when the 'Ōla'a Sugar Company (later renamed the Puna Sugar Company) replanted its coffee and rubber fields with sugar and expanded its acreage southward establishing the town of Pāhoa. Its fields extended for ten miles along both sides of the highway between Kea'au and Mountain View, as well as in the Pāhoa and Kapoho areas. In those early years, most of the plantation's workers came from Japan, and those who eventually settled in Hawai'i helped to build the community of Pāhoa, establishing its earliest buildings and businesses.

Little changed until the 1960s, when in the wake of statehood, the plantation decided to take advantage of the land boom and sell off thousands of acres of land. This resulted in the development of large rural subdivisions throughout Puna, which attracted buyers from the U.S. mainland, many of whom settled in the area, drawn in part to the promise of a rugged, self-reliant lifestyle—one that persists to this day.

Greater Puna is still largely rural and agricultural. When the sugar plantation closed in 1984, some of the land shifted into production of other agricultural products like macadamia nuts, cut flowers, papaya, bananas, tropical fruits, and vegetable production.

In the 1980s, Wao Kele o Puna, the forest reserve southwest of Pāhoa, was at the center of a legal battle over the development of geothermal energy. The controversy began in 1982, when the Campbell Estate, once one of Hawai'i's largest private landowners, applied for a Conservation District Use Permit from the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) in preparation for geothermal drilling. The Campbell Estate owned a 25,807-acre parcel of forested conservation land called Kahauale'a, located just south of Wao Kele o Puna. It planned to drill dozens of geothermal wells, convert the the energy into electric power, and transmit it to O'ahu via an undersea cable. The plan drew swift opposition from members of the surrounding community and resulted in several contested case hearings.

In January of 1983, while the matter was pending before the BLNR, Kīlauea erupted. Lava poured over Campbell Estate's land and made geothermal development at Kahauale'a untenable. In an effort to resolve this and other issues, the State proposed a land exchange. It would trade its 27,785 acres of land located in Wao Kele o Puna for Campbell's Kahauale'a land.

The proposal shocked many because it would mean trading away a pristine and ancient 17,000-acre lowland forest that was supposed to be protected in perpetuity. The BLNR approved the land exchange in 1985, which gave rise to an additional contested case hearing, this time involving the Pele Defense Fund, a non-profit that opposed geothermal development on religious and cultural grounds. The Pele Defense Fund challenged the development and land exchange in both state and federal court, and although litigation did not prevent the land exchange from moving forward, controversy over geothermal energy remains.

Much of the opposition today comes from residents of Lower Puna who want to see Puna Geothermal Venture, the only commercial geothermal power plant in Hawai'i, shut down. They have complained of being subjected to jet-engine-level noise and exposed to elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide, which occurs naturally when geothermal steam is brought up from great depths.

Summary of Engagements

Thought Leader Conversation

The thought leader conversation for the Pāhoa community featured Janice Ikeda, a resident of Pi‘ihonua on Hawai‘i Island. She is the executive director of Vibrant Hawai‘i, where she specializes in personal and professional well-being through coaching, workshops, and retreats.



Community Pulse: People are just trying to get by, which leaves little time to focus on systemic change. Despite the relative affordability of housing on Hawai‘i Island, when you factor in the cost of utilities and other essentials, it adds up.



Energy Awareness & Solutions: On a scale of 1 to 10, energy is right under housing as being top of mind, so it ranks at an 8.5 or 9. In Pāhoa, geothermal energy is a chief concern, and the community does not trust Puna Geothermal Venture. Many object to geothermal because of the connection to Pele. There are also health concerns around sulfur dioxide emissions.

The community needs to see transparency from other renewable energy industry stakeholders, so the opportunity for education is great. Community members on Hawai‘i Island will continue to fight for transparency and inclusion in the process.

As for other recent energy projects on Hawai‘i Island, there was no community pushback on the Waikoloa solar farm, but there was push back on the Honua Ola biomass plant.

With regard to the state’s 100% renewable energy goal, the more localized the support for achieving this goal, the more resilient the community will become. We can ask what more we can do, but perhaps we should also be thinking about how we can demand less. If we say that ‘āina is our ancestor and foundation, then we need to include ‘āina as a stakeholder at the table.



Information Sharing and Gathering: Rural areas rely on Facebook Groups to get and share information. Parents of school-aged keiki get information from the Department of Education. Surveys, including online surveys, are not usually effective.

Pāhoa Community Workshop

Forty-seven (47) community members attended the in-person Pāhoa Community Workshop, which was held on May 24, 2022 at the Pāhoa Community Center.



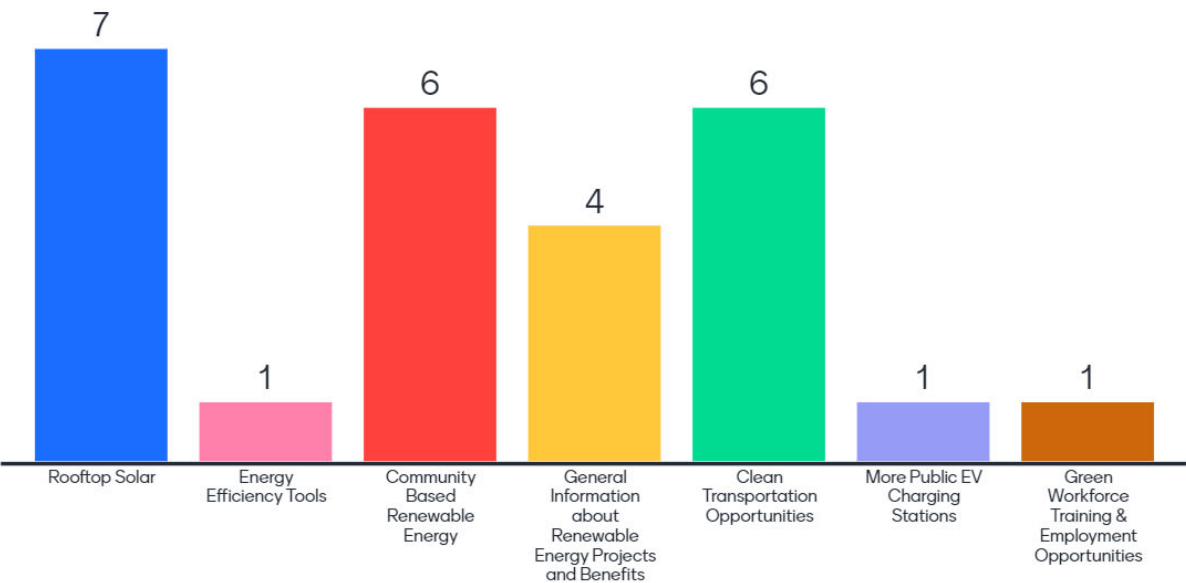
Tuesday, May 24th
Pāhoa Community Center



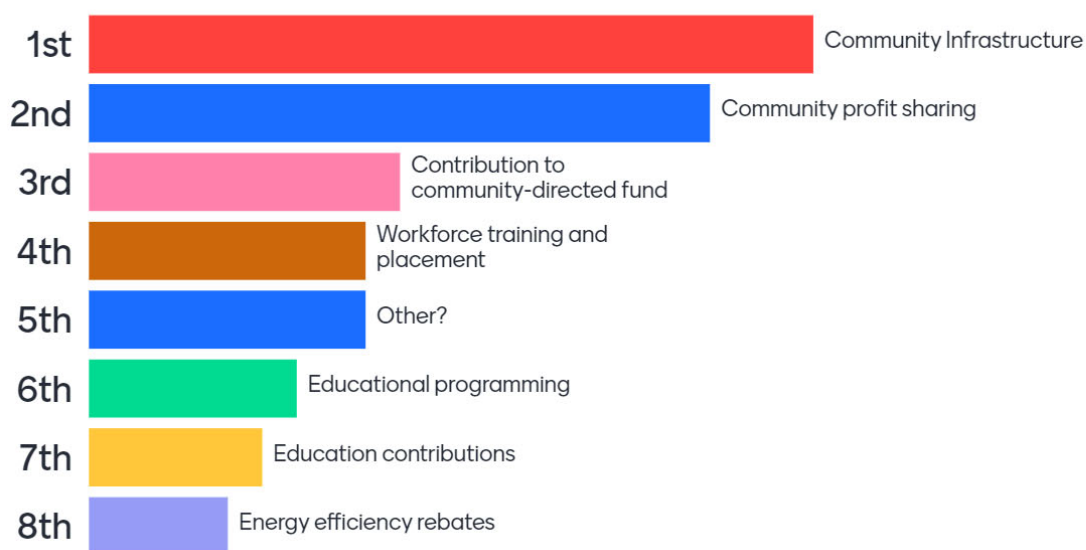
47 community members attended



Priorities for Participating in the Renewable Energy Economy: Of the twenty-six (26) respondents, seven (7) selected rooftop solar as their top priority. Six (6) selected community-based renewable energy. Another six (6) selected clean transportation opportunities. One (1) each selected energy efficiency tools, more public EV charging stations, and green workforce training and employment opportunities.



Ranking Possible Forms of Community Support: Four (4) respondents participated in the poll that asked, “How would you like the energy industry to support your community?” Community infrastructure ranked first as the top priority, community profit-sharing ranked second, contribution to a community-directed fund ranked third, workforce training and placement tied with “other” for fourth, educational programming ranked fifth, education contributions ranked sixth, and energy efficiency rebates ranked seventh.



Prioritization of Elements in a Grid-Scale Project: The participants at the Pāhoa Community Workshop were divided into groups. The top four (4) features desired in the Pāhoa community in a future renewable energy project include:

- Built with design standards that protect the environment
- Carries out community engagement early and often
- Lowers electric bills
- Locally owned and operated and trains and hires with/in the community to operate

When combined as one collective group, the top four (4) features desired in a future renewable energy project, as expressed by the Pāhoa workshop attendees, include:

- 1 Built with design standards that protect the environment
- 2 Carries out community engagement early and often
- 3 Lowers monthly electric bills
- 4 Tie between locally owned and operated projects and one that trains and hires within the community to operate

Pāhoa Vision Statements

To summarize each group's feedback from the previous exercise, participants were asked to come up with a vision statement or tagline to capture what they want others to know about what their community stands for in an energy ecosystem.



Group 1:

Build a resilient community based on 100% renewable energy for both electricity and transportation.

Group 2:

Protecting our 'ohana and our 'āina with our voices.

Group 3:

Selectively choosing our future through resourcefulness.

Group 4:

Aloha is building within nature and community parameters to create a better future for both.

Group 5:

Starting with the cleanest, natural resources we have on this island, like OTEC, in a sustainable manner to create a better economy for the local community. We need to shut down Puna Geothermal Venture—a danger to our community. Safety first for the people living in the area of the toxic plant.

Group 6:

We are Puna, it's time we breathe. I dream of a day I, and my baby and community can actually breathe clean air in Puna, Hawai'i. Enough desecration. Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono.

Group 7:

Power microgrids, using solar power and storage. Community input, hire locally. Preserve the 'āina.

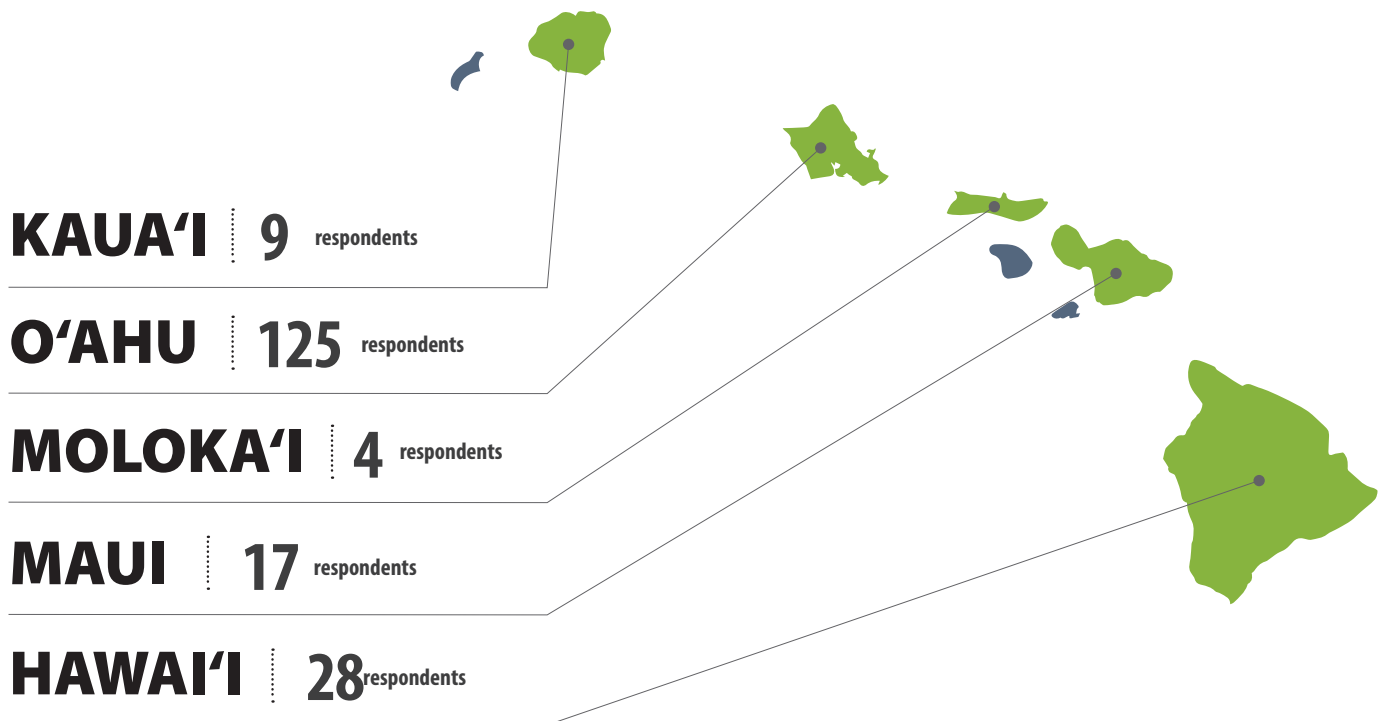


As a closing exercise, attendees were asked, “What would you like to see preserved in your community?” and the word cloud below reflects those responses for Pāhoa:



Online Engagement

On May 20, 2022, a 27-question survey was distributed to mimic the information gathered in Phases 1, 2, and 3. The survey was designed so that anyone, regardless of their participation in a previous outreach phase or not, could find value in providing additional feedback. In seventeen (17) days, a total of 187 responses were collected including nine (9) respondents from Kaua'i, 125 from O'ahu, seventeen (17) from Maui, four (4) from Moloka'i, and twenty-eight (28) respondents from Hawai'i.

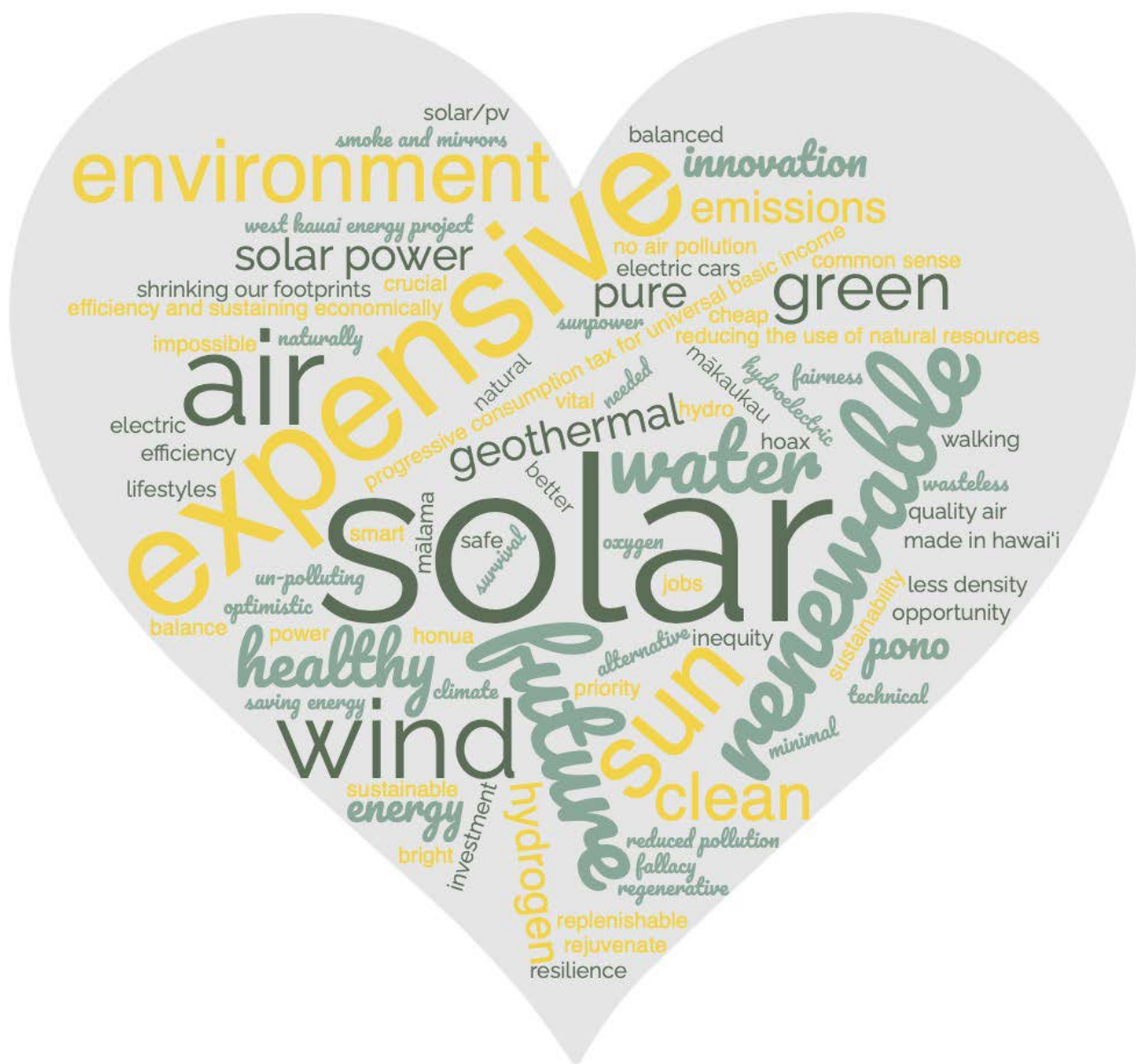


Interestingly, the online survey garnered more participation in a two-week period of time than the in-person outreach did in three months. To get the word out, the invite was emailed to all stakeholders listed in Phases 1, 2, and 3, and all those who attended the community workshops. The survey link was also posted on social media, boosted with a \$50 budget, and a \$100 Actions of Aloha gift box was offered for a lucky winner on every island.

Summary of Online Engagement

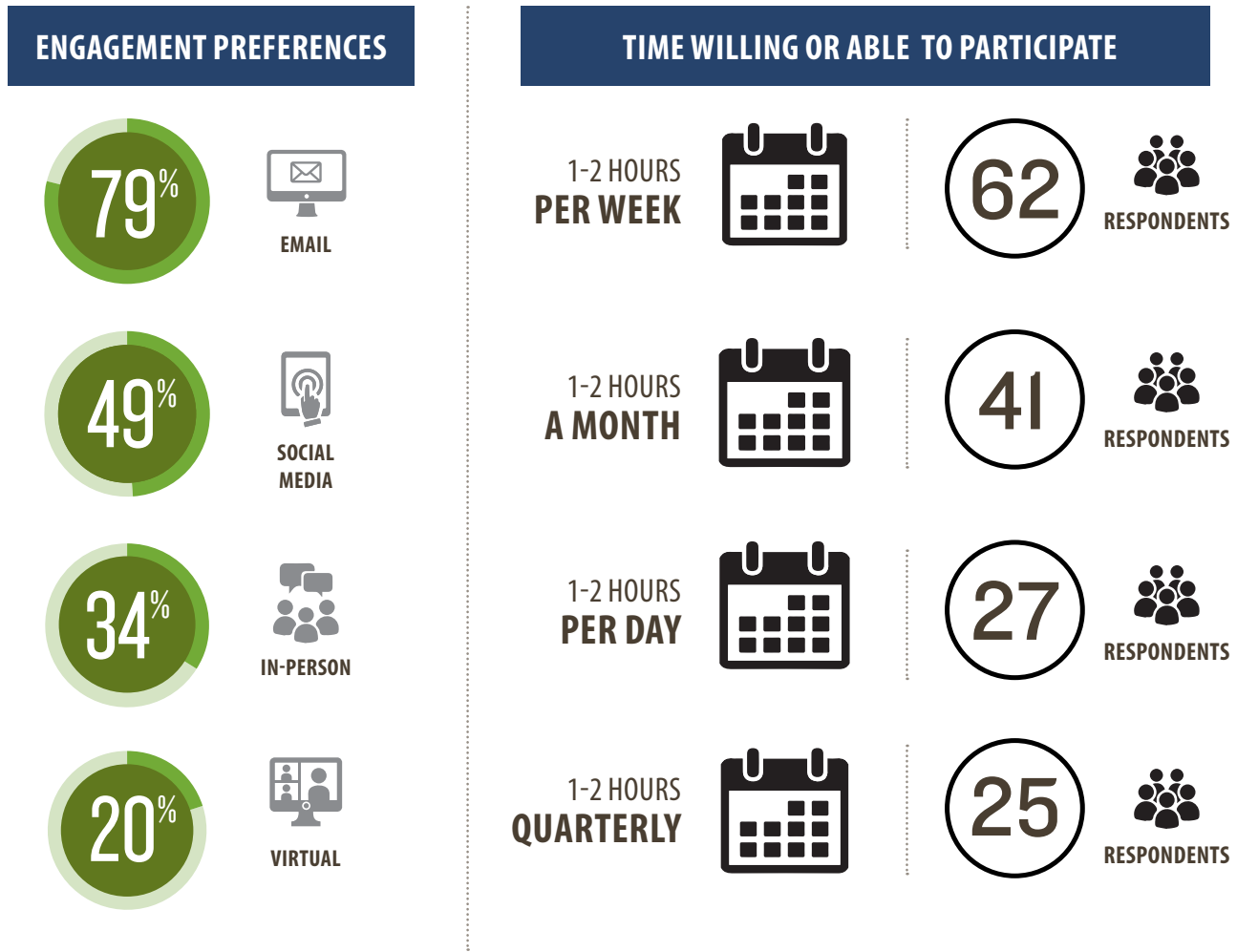
Due to the widespread availability of modern technology and general interest in the topic, this outreach proved to be effective for those with budget and time constraints.

While people were less familiar with the State's clean energy goals at 56%, respondents ranked their awareness of energy as 67 out of 100. People's opinions of energy were mostly positive as they shared these words to capture one word they think of when they hear "clean energy."



How Community Likes to Engage

When surveyed, respondents said they currently get their information from newspaper, internet, television, and radio. These outlets were consistent across most zipcodes. However, in rural areas such as Wai‘anae, Pāhoa and Kahuku, face-to-face interactions such as word of mouth and community associations were more commonly present and used among respondents.



When it comes to issues folks care about, 148 responses, or 79%, indicated that they prefer to stay engaged by email. Followed by 49% of respondents who prefer to stay connected via social media. In-person engagement efforts fell to 34% as the most preferred method, and probably in light of the pandemic as Moloka‘i in particular noted that 20% more of their engagement now happens virtually.

When asked how much time people are willing, or able, to participate in community engagement efforts for issues they care about, 62 respondents shared that they are willing to be engaged 1-2 hours a week, 41 voted for 1-2 hours a month, 27 respondents preferred 1-2 hours per day, and 25 people said 1-2 hours per quarter was sufficient. The reason that 54% of respondents did not participate was because they didn't have enough time.

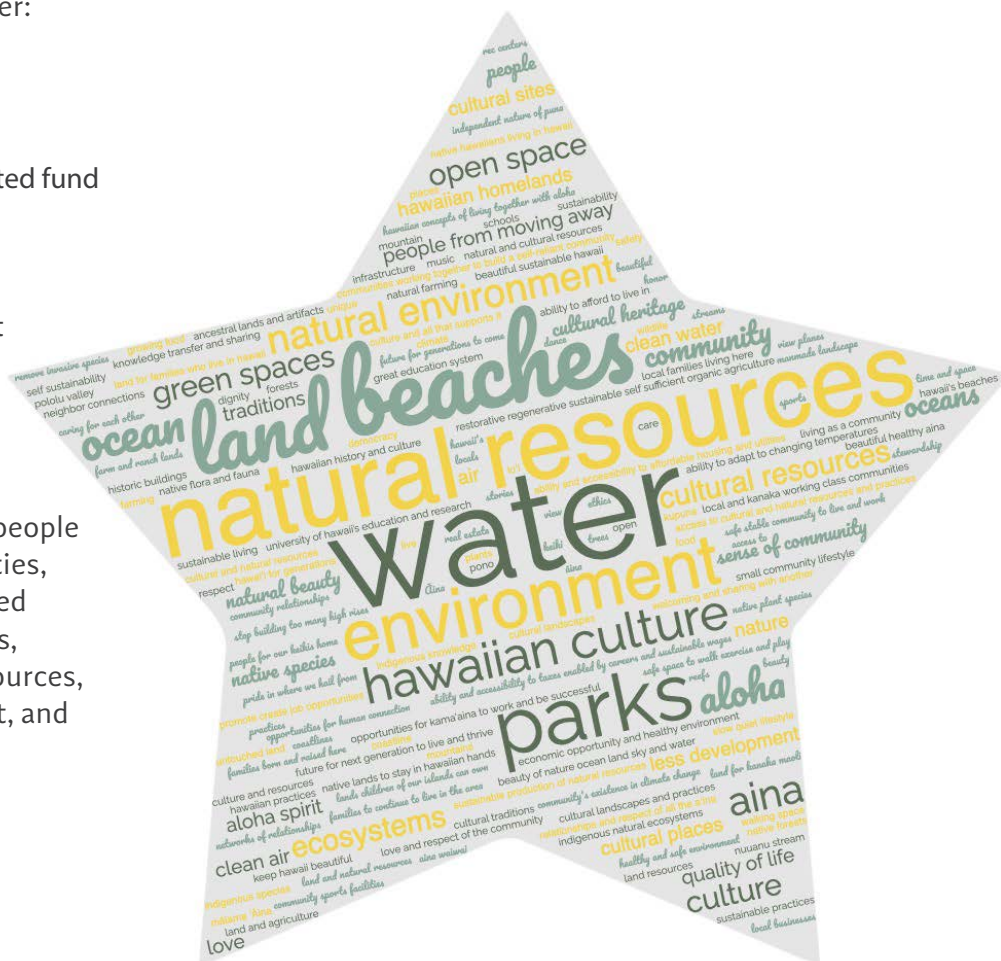
When asked about the top priorities for their community, respondents shared that housing, cost of living, and education were the most critical areas of interest. Energy ranked fourth among a list of 11 choices.

Regarding which features are most desired in a clean energy project, 125 people responded and ranked their top four choices as:

1. Built with design standards that protect the environment
2. Lowers monthly electric bills
3. Locally owned and operated
4. Trains and hires with/in the community to operate

1. Community infrastructure
2. Community profit sharing
3. Contribution to community-directed fund
4. Energy efficiency rebates
5. Education contributions
6. Workforce training and placement
7. Educational programming
8. One time contribution

When asked what's one thing that people want to preserve in their communities, survey participants commonly valued similar things – land, water, beaches, open and green spaces, natural resources, cultural resources, the environment, and Hawaiian culture.



Conclusion

In the Hawaiian worldview, natural and cultural resources are one and the same. This relationship permeates all aspects of Hawaiian beliefs and practices – even today. Honoring and sustaining the energy of 'āina (land) has always been in our nature, and the Hawai'i State Energy Office plays an important role in redefining a new relationship between communities and the energy ecosystem.

HSEO stands ready to serve as that bridge to educate, inform, and provide communities with the tools and resources needed to meaningfully engage and contribute to Hawai'i's clean energy transformation that is underway.

By respecting the role that energy has played within the Hawaiian cultural value system, which has long respected nature's life-giving and life-sustaining energy, HSEO has demonstrated its commitment to build pilina (connection) with 'āina and kānaka (man) through community outreach.

The outcomes from these first few months of community engagement detailed in this report only begin to scratch the surface of what's possible. HSEO now stands ready to operationalize the tools, tactics, and takeaways outlined in this report to help guide and inform the state's energy policy.

