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The Current Newsletter August 2023



**Chief Energy Officer Mark
B. Glick Announces HSEO
Realignment**

The Hawai'i State Energy Office is starting off the new (fiscal) year with some new faces and a new organizational structure to help us achieve our top priorities.

First, we have realigned the energy office to recognize the importance of quality local jobs and community outreach in the clean energy transition. The new Jobs and Outreach Branch (Jobs Branch), headed by Cameron Black, will help ensure that local families and communities can thrive in the clean energy economy. As the clean energy sector lead for Good Jobs Hawai'i, we are working with companies and the University of Hawai'i System and Community Colleges to identify and encourage participation in high-demand (and free!) training opportunities. The energy industry has always been known for good-paying jobs with good benefits, and we must ensure that clean energy jobs are quality jobs for Hawai'i residents.

Community engagement and workforce issues often overlap, so the Jobs Branch will help uplift community voices in the decisions to host energy infrastructure, enabling more equitable access to the benefits of the clean energy transition.

Community engagement is important to the state's success in each of the six elements of the energy transition: 1) energy efficiency; 2) grid modernization; 3) generation and production 4) storage; 5) clean transportation; and 6) effective energy sector governance.

Another area of emphasis for my term as Chief Energy Officer will be technical assistance. This function is embedded in all of HSEO's branches and includes a range of disciplines from building efficiency and electric vehicle performance to grid modernization. This technical assistance will help state agencies and other energy sector

stakeholders secure market transformation opportunities, whether through data-driven policy development, reducing regulatory barriers, or competing for the significant clean energy funding from the Investing in Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

In total, it is a big task, and I am thrilled to now have Stephen C. Walls on board as the Deputy Chief Energy Officer. Stephen comes to us with a wealth of experience in the energy policy sector, most recently with the Natural Resources Defense Council and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In addition to time with General Electric, Stephen previously worked on grid modernization initiatives at the U.S. Department of Energy for many years. While at the U.S. Department of Energy, Stephen helped create the Energy Transitions Initiative, a technical assistance effort tailored to the needs of island and remote communities. Through this work at USDOE, Stephen supported the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative from 2014-16, the Hawai'i – Okinawa Clean Energy Partnership, and State Department missions to Cyprus, Palau and Papua New Guinea. He also assisted with Hurricane Maria response and recovery, having worked closely with Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in their energy sector modernization efforts.

Stephen's experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors will enable him to support the broad range of activities here at HSEO. Among his "all-of-the-above" responsibilities as Deputy, Stephen will be helping the office revitalize its regulatory engagements, recognizing the need for timely and accurate review and approval of energy infrastructure on our path to 100% clean energy. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions for us or would like an HSEO

expert to speak to your class, meeting, or event.
Drop us a note at dbedt.energyoffice@hawaii.gov.

In spite of these changes, HSEO's mission remains the same – to achieve a resilient clean energy economy that benefits all of Hawai'i. My focus as Chief Energy Officer will be on deployment of reliable clean energy infrastructure, quality jobs for Hawai'i residents, and data-driven policies to achieve the clean energy transition in Hawai'i.

Aloha,



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Driving Towards a Greener Future: Hawai'i's Debut of Zero-Emission Electric-Battery Buses

Hawai'i took a significant step towards sustainable transportation on July 20th, 2023, with the debut of five new zero-emission electric-battery buses on O'ahu. The buses, including the country's first tour/charter EV motorcoaches of their kind, will

provide clean transportation for tourists and students.

The purchase of these buses was made possible through the Diesel Replacement Rebate (DRR) program. This program, funded by the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust and the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, offers rebates of up to 45% of the total purchase amount to replace medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles with new electric or hydrogen equivalents. The DRR program also covers up to 45% of the cost of an EV charger per electric vehicle.

The DRR program is part of Hawai'i's efforts to achieve its renewable energy and decarbonization goals. The state aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to zero-emission alternatives, making transportation a key focus.

The DRR program, administered by the Hawai'i State Energy Office in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has already allocated approximately \$3.2 million in rebates to support the purchase of eight vehicles, including seven buses and one forklift. The recently introduced five buses were purchased during the program's first year in 2022, with additional vehicles planned for purchase in the second year of the rebate program.

This initiative not only helps businesses and entities adopt zero-emission alternatives but also aligns with Hawai'i's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health. The partnership between the public and private sectors, exemplified by Robert's Hawai'i, is crucial in achieving the state's 2045 zero-emission target and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

By utilizing the DRR program, Hawai'i is making progress towards a cleaner and greener transportation system, reducing emissions, and setting an example for sustainable practices.

[Learn more about the Volkswagen Settlement](#)

[Learn more about the Diesel Replacement Rebate Program](#)



Photo Credits: Governor Josh Green, M.D.'s Photostream

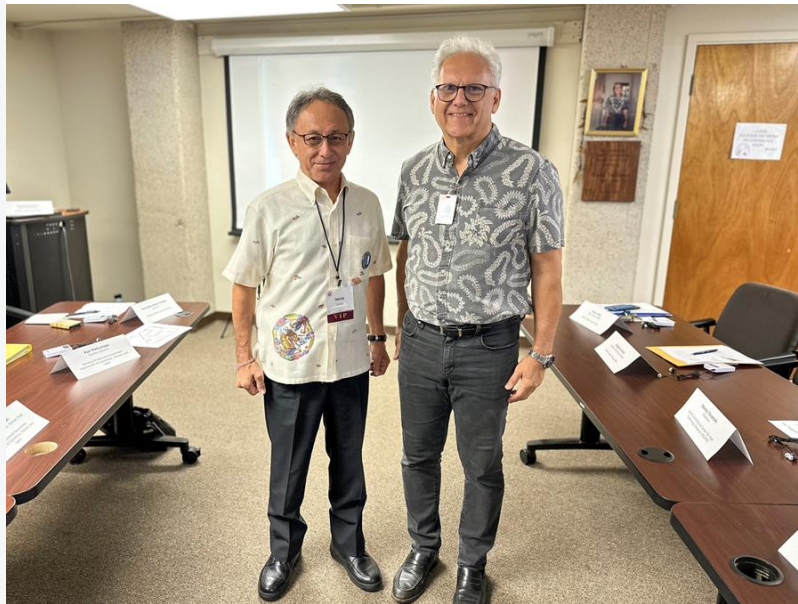


Photo Credit: Benjamin Martin, GOSEA

14th Hawai'i Okinawa Clean Energy Workshop

Collaboration and clean energy were the overriding themes of the 14th Hawaii Okinawa Clean Energy Task Force and Workshop held on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus in July.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki provided opening remarks to the attendees saying that "by learning about each other's efforts and continuing to exchange information, we will steadily make progress toward solving issues unique to the island region."

Attendees included representatives the Okinawa Prefectural Government; the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan; Okinawa Electric Power Company; Okidenko Co.; Kumejima Town; Energy Lab of Okinawa; Toyota Motor Co.; the Nansei Shoto Industrial Advancement Center; the Global Ocean Resource and Energy Association; the Hawai'i State Energy Office; U.S. Department of Energy, the University of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute, the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, and industry ambassadors.

The partnership began in 2010 and draws upon the similarities and decades of cultural and economic exchanges between the island states. This meeting focused on grid stabilization initiatives and hydrogen activities in Okinawa and Hawai'i.



2022 Hawai'i Green Business Program Recognizes Businesses for Sustainable Practices and Energy Efficiency

The Hawai'i Green Business Program (HGBP) celebrated its largest-ever group of awardees, recognizing Hawai'i businesses and events for their energy efficiency and sustainable practices.

Governor Josh Green praised the awardees' commitment to conserving energy and water, reducing waste, and protecting the environment, which is essential for the state's way of life and economy.

The 37 awardees from five islands were honored during the annual HGBP awards ceremony, hosted by various organizations.

The program, established in 2002, offers technical assistance to businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits to operate more environmentally and socially responsibly.

This year's recipients undertook innovative measures such as adopting renewable energy, high-efficiency cooling and lighting, water conservation, and waste reduction to minimize their environmental impact.

[Hawaii Green Business Program Website](#)

[Full list of Hawaii Green Business Program Awardees](#)

Upcoming Hawai'i Green Business Program Forums

Learn from businesses ways they have implemented green practices while enjoying a free breakfast!

[Find when and where a forum will be in your community here!](#)



Hawai'i Sea Grant's Project to Empower Remote Communities with Renewable Energy Solutions

The challenges faced by island and remote communities in the U.S. regarding resilient electricity infrastructure and energy systems are unique due to their isolation, vulnerability to natural hazards, and limited access to conventional energy sources. In Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

(Hawai'i Sea Grant) has taken a significant step to address these challenges.

Hawai'i Sea Grant was awarded \$400,000 to collaborate with the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) to work on informing the state's energy future through HSEO's Clean Energy Wayfinder program. The project's focus is to build trusted, long-term relationships with remote communities that are most impacted by energy grid fragility and are in need of multiple options to transition to renewable energy sources.

One of the key aspects of the project is to integrate renewable energy into the broader context of hazard and emergency preparedness, rather than treating it as a separate issue. This holistic approach recognizes that resilient energy systems are essential for remote communities, especially during times of emergencies or natural disasters.

[Read the full story here!](#)



Join Good Jobs Hawai'i and HSEO

Employers across the state are invited to join the Good Jobs Coalition by signing the Talent Pledge, supporting the development of a skilled local talent pipeline. HSEO is collaborating with the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) and the Chamber of Commerce to create a Clean Energy Sector Partnership, enabling the identification and implementation of Good Jobs Hawai'i programs,

and encouraging industry partners and stakeholders to participate in growing the talent pipeline.

[Sign the Talent Pledge here!](#)

[Are you a job seeker, employer, or community partner? Learn more here!](#)



Recruitment for the FY'24 Cohort of the [IMPEL Program](#)

Are you an early-stage innovator in climate-smart building technology? IMPEL, the Department of Energy's Tech-to-Market program, is here to supercharge your journey from idea to market success. [Apply Now for IMPEL's FY'24 Cohort](#)

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Shift and Save Rate Pilot Program Kicks Off

Hawaiian Electric Company and regulators collaborate on 1-year pilot of time-of-use.

[Click here for the details!](#)

Energy Equity and Justice PUC Docket

The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission is investigating how to better integrate equity and justice considerations across Commission

proceedings and the Commission's work more broadly, including in its role overseeing and regulating the functions of public utilities.

[Learn more about it here!](#)



Hawai'i State Energy Office
235 S. Beretania St. Fifth Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

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