



The Current Newsletter

April 2024

Mark's Message



Photo credit: AES | Office of the Governor

Urgent Priorities for Hawai'i's Energy Transition

Most energy stakeholders in Hawai'i know HSEO's statutory purpose is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation, as the State's primary government entity for supporting the clean energy initiative. We would like to

emphasize how the Legislature follows this purpose by saying the HSEO shall:

1. Provide analysis and planning to actively develop and inform policies to achieve energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation goals with the legislature, public utilities commission, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
2. Lead efforts to incorporate energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to reduce costs and achieve clean energy goals across all public facilities.
3. Provide renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and clean transportation project deployment facilitation to assist private sector project completion when aligned with state energy goals; and
4. Engage the private sector to help lead efforts to achieve renewable energy and clean transportation goals through the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative

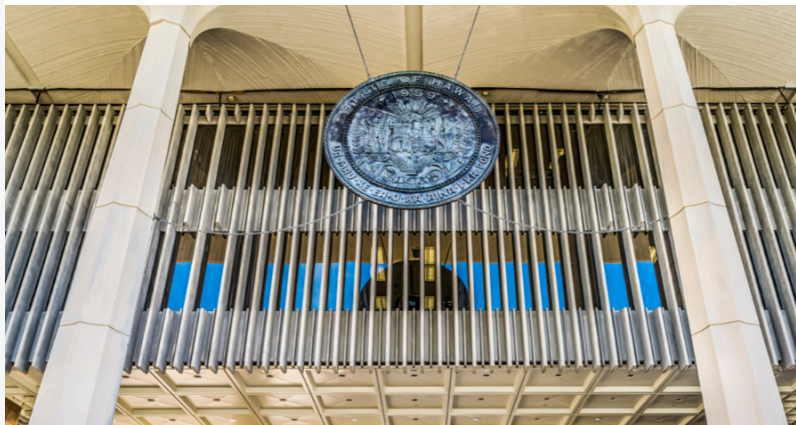
In the aftermath of the Maui wildfires, we are dealing with a new normal as we address the increasing risks posed by climate change and aging thermal generator fleets in much of the State. Working together with energy stakeholders throughout the state, we are confident that the challenges are not insurmountable. At the bequest of the Governor, we are updating our near-term energy strategy to focus on three primary objectives: lowering energy costs, reducing carbon, and opening access to capital. The underlying principle, as we seek to address the Three Cs: **Cost, Carbon, and Capital**, is that this be achieved in a manner that either maintains or accelerates our transition to 100 percent renewable energy in the electricity sector, going beyond net zero carbon by 2045.

With greater access to capital, we are prioritizing upgrades and replacements to the thermal power generators that the state will continue to rely upon over the next decade and a half to provide dispatchable power, especially on the islands of O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i.

HSEO will continue to work with the Department of Energy to support our grid modernization efforts, aided by unprecedented, historic investments in climate-resilient infrastructure adopted by Congress and the Biden Administration.

We look forward to providing more details next month as we release the findings of a White Paper addressing the Three Cs: cost, carbon, and capital. We also applaud the recent announcements of new renewable energy projects, the Kapolei Energy Storage and AES West O‘ahu solar and storage projects. HSEO remains steadfast in our commitment to a clean energy future under the Green administration!





Bills Before the House

[HB 1997](#) - Relating to the Interisland Transport of Hydrogen

[SCR 126](#) / [SR 108](#) - Relating to the State's Usage of Biodiesel

[SB 2518](#) - Relating to Geothermal Energy Exploration

[HCR 213](#) - Requesting the Hawai'i State Energy Office to Convene a Renewable Liquid Fuels Working Group

[HB 1828](#) - Relating to Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards

[Find HSEO's Legislative Testimony here](#)



Energy in the News

Local News:

- Star-Advertiser: [Tech View: Is geothermal key to our fossil-free energy future?](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Nurture local clean energy solutions](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Editorial: Don't try to weaken isles' energy policy](#)
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Bill advances to give condo owners a new way to buy into rooftop solar](#)

- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Hū Honua renews calls for PUC to bring its biomass plant onto the grid](#)
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [As Hawai'i depends on air travel, sustainable aviation fuel could help reduce emissions](#)
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Would a clean fuel standard help Hawai'i reduce transportation emissions?](#)
- Grist: [How changes to Hawai'i's home battery program could hinder its energy transition](#)

National News:

- Heatmap: [Can Hawaii Harness Its Volcanic Energy?](#)
 - Bloomberg: [Hawaii At Risk of Blackouts Through End of April Amid Power-Plant Outages](#)
- Canary Media: [Homes need to electrify. New building codes will make that harder](#)



Photo Credit: Kapolei Energy Storage, Plus Power

Innovative GIS Mapping Helps HSEO Assess Energy Infrastructure Resilience

How does critical infrastructure depend on O'ahu's energy infrastructure? If a large-scale event impacts the energy sector, how do we prioritize restoration to resume essential services?

Sophisticated data visualization tools allow us to map complex relationships and dependencies through an interactive system for disaster mitigation planning and emergency response.

This work informs the state's Energy Security Plan and the State of Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan, allowing us to plan key mitigation activities with energy providers (e.g. electric and gas utilities, refinery, and terminal operators) and many more critical service providers on hazard and risk concerns, back-up power capabilities, and energy-dependent critical infrastructure such as hospitals, emergency services, water supply, wastewater treatment, and vital government buildings. Similar assessments will be carried out for Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i.

Read more about HSEO's advance assistance planning here:

[ICF: Using Data Visualization to Build Energy Infrastructure Resilience in Hawaii](#)

The logo for the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). It features the acronym "NASEO" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters "O" and "E", there are three horizontal black bars of varying lengths, stacked vertically, that resemble a stylized flag or a set of energy lines.

*National Association of
State Energy Officials*

**Governor Josh Green to Address National
Association of State Energy Officials in
Honolulu**

Governor Josh Green and Chief Energy Officer Mark Glick will engage over 40 US state energy officials in a conversation on energy security, affordability, and decarbonization at a two-day convening of NASEO, the National Association of State Energy Officials Western Regional Meeting at the Imin International Center in Honolulu April 16-18. For further information visit: <https://www.naseo.org>



Governor Josh Green, M.D.

AES Hawai'i Launches West Oahu Solar-Plus-Storage Facility

Located on 66 acres of open University of Hawai'i land, the West Oahu facility generates 12.5 MWh of clean energy for Hawai'i's power grid, supported by a 50 MWh battery energy storage system under a 25-year power purchase agreement with Hawaiian Electric. The energy produced will reduce Oahu's use of fossil fuels by 750,000 barrels of oil and the associated greenhouse gas emissions over the project's lifetime. "We will continue the good work that is underway to make our islands petroleum-independent by 2045," said Governor Josh Green.

**Star-Advertiser: Hawaii company launches
West Oahu solar-plus-storage project**



First Come, First Serve: Diesel Replacement Rebate Now Accepting Applications

The DRR program provides rebates of up to 45 percent for the replacement of medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles with new, battery-electric or hydrogen equivalents. Projects can include the purchase of one charging unit per vehicle.

You can view a recording of the pre-application webinar on the DRR website <https://energy.hawaii.gov/DRR>, read the program guide and view sample documents. If you have any questions, please reach out to sage.a.lang@hawaii.gov



Local2030 Islands Network: Communities of Practice Convening in Honolulu April 22-25

The [Local2030 Islands Network](#) is hosting the second annual in-person gathering of technical experts, practitioners, and government leaders from national and subnational islands across the globe at the Hawai'i Convention Center April 22-25.

The 2024 event will bring together both previous and new attendees from islands from across the world to showcase progress and action taken by island communities in the fields of climate resilience and sustainable and regenerative tourism.

Upcoming Maui Energy Code Webinars

Maui's 2018 IECC building energy code took effect in December 2022. Join these two FREE webinars to learn how the requirements affect your projects. Maui-specific amendments will be covered, including solar-ready and electric-vehicle-ready requirements for both residential and commercial projects.

LOW-RISE RESIDENTIAL: April 23, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

This session covers low-rise residential requirements including townhomes and three-story multifamily buildings.

COMMERCIAL & HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL: April 24, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The second session covers commercial and high-rise residential requirement



Deadline Extended to April 30

The [Hawai'i Green Business Program \(HGBP\)](#) is accepting checklists for the next round of 2023-2024 green businesses to be recognized in June 2024.

Apply

Now! <https://greenbusiness.hawaii.gov/apply/>

Earth Day Celebration

Join us for our **Earth Day Celebration** and learn from local nonprofit organizations and businesses that are working to make our island home more sustainable.

Monday, April 22
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Member FDIC

Come celebrate Earth Day with us at Tidepools hosted by Central Pacific Bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 22. HSEO will showcase two new

tools, developed in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Laboratory for Advanced Visualization Applications (LAVA), at the Earth Day Celebration that will help community members better visualize and learn about Hawai'i's energy ecosystem and the critical infrastructure that powers our islands.

Top 10 Energy-Saving Tips for Earth Day

- Use a power strip to shut off computers, printers, and routers
- Shut off the lights and TV when you leave the room
- Switch to LED Light Bulbs
- Switch to a solar water heater
- Use fans instead of air conditioning
- Use Energy-Star Appliances
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang to dry
- Carpool, Walk, or Bike
- Use natural daylight and ventilation
- **Participate in Energy Efficiency Programs**
 - [Rebates – Hawaii Energy](#)
 - [Energy Efficiency Programs, Rebates, and Solar Initiatives - Hawai'i State Energy Office](#)

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[Events Calendar](#)





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