



The Current Newsletter

June 2024

Mark's Message



What's Needed for a Resilient and Dynamic Energy Future?

On May 22, Governor Josh Green, M.D. presented the featured address at the 2024 Hawai'i Energy Conference and pleasantly surprised the audience and organizers by joining "Powering Progress: What's Needed for a Resilient and Dynamic Energy Future", a panel on which I was privileged to participate. The Governor provided his view of the critical decisions we need to make to ensure a secure, affordable energy transition, compelling the audience for their thoughts by offering up his personal cell number to the stunned energy stakeholders in the room.

Those of us present heard the Governor say Hawai'i is at a crossroads. He implored us to explore all options as we steward our resources and try to diminish our carbon footprint and reduce electricity costs at this critical time. He spoke candidly about the difficulty of reducing cost and carbon given the risks placed upon our largest public utility in the aftermath of the Lahaina

tragedy as simultaneously the state seeks to make the grid more resilient, adding electricity load (demand) with the electrification of transportation.

Governor Green challenged the audience to consider what enlightened partner might be willing to take a minority investment in Hawaiian Electric to bring the capital necessary to accelerate Hawai'i's transition to renewable energy while being open to alternatives to our most expensive and carbon intensive fuels: low sulfur fuel oil and diesel. In demonstrating Hawai'i's will to reduce carbon, Governor Green stated that "we need to re-examine geothermal and LNG," to make energy more affordable. In his words, "We can't let another 25,000 people leave the state. ALICE families. Our host culture. They are the first to go. We can't let these people down."

The Governor has backed up his position on the energy transition by allocating \$5 million to resource characterization research that can inform the potential for geothermal, with the initial research likely to be on DHHL property on Hawai'i island. In this way, he notes that Native Hawaiians can be partners and beneficiaries in the solutions.

As an M.D., Governor Green applies an ER mentality to energy supply and demand. When there is uncertainty, he says, people suffer. Most people, as the state learned during the pandemic, will be with you if you show them the data. He knows the energy transition is a long haul and speaks to the need to find a superior model and follow it through. He is confident that billions of dollars of investment capital and federal resources in the form of grants will come to Hawai'i in support of new technologies and efficiency improvements to aging power plants, provided we decrease carbon and costs.

I also wish to report that the Hawai'i State Energy Office will soon reconvene the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) stakeholder alliance, seeking what Public Utilities Commissioner Colin Yost calls "a nexus of understanding between state and community" on alternative fuels, securitization, and bridge strategies to live up to and potentially accelerate our transition to a 100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045.

Mahalo to the Maui Economic Development Board and other conveners of the Hawai'i Energy Conference for providing an excellent forum for discussion.



2024 Legislative Takeaways

HB 2020 Expands the definition of "renewable energy producer" that is used to determine the Board of Land and Natural Resources' disposition of public lands to renewable energy producers.

HB 2390 Requires the Public Utilities Commission to explicitly consider the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions and gives the Public Utilities Commission the discretion to waive a lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment for energy projects that do not involve combustion.

HB 2685 Allows multi-family residential property owners to invest in a solar hui investment fund, which will provide repayment of income derived from energy services agreements to low- and moderate-income households to install solar energy systems.

HB 2537 Clarifies that the Chief Energy Officer is responsible for supporting the renewable portfolio standards and reporting on certain energy matters.

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



Energy in the News

- Star-Advertiser: [Banks agree to lend Hawaiian Electric \\$250M](#)
- Civil Beat: [Hawaiian Electric Co. Says It's Maui County's Fault Fire Destroyed Much Of Lahaina](#)
- Hawaii News Now: [First responders, HECO meet over de-energizing power lines to prevent wildfires](#)
- Civil Beat: [Hawaii's Ambitious Renewable Energy Plan Is Threatened By HECO's Uncertain Future](#)
- Star Advertiser: [Column: Hawaii lawmakers must take quick action on decarbonization](#)
- Maui News: [Hawaii Residents Overwhelmingly Support More Renewable Energy with Electricity Costs Being the Main Factor](#)
- Civil Beat: [Green: Hawaii Should Consider Liquefied Natural Gas As A 'Bridge' To 100% Renewable Energy](#)
- Henry Curtis: [Governor Green Wants to Import Liquefied Natural Gas](#)
- Hawai'i Gas sets its sights on new renewable energy projects on O'ahu - [Hawaii Business Magazine](#)
- KITV: [Governor Josh Green outlines diverse energy strategies for Hawaii's renewable goals](#)
- Civil Beat: [More States Are Turning Off Their Electrical Grids To Prevent Wildfires — But It's A Delicate Operation](#)
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Honolulu ranks 29th on clean energy progress among US cities](#)
- KHON2: [Millions coming to Hawaii to help disadvantaged get access to solar](#)
- KHON2: [How the Hawaii State Energy Office is Helping to Navigate Hawaii's Emission Vehicles in the Islands - Youtube link](#)
- KHON2: [\\$62.45M award to expand affordable energy to communities](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [On Earth Day, rooftop solar program grants awarded](#)

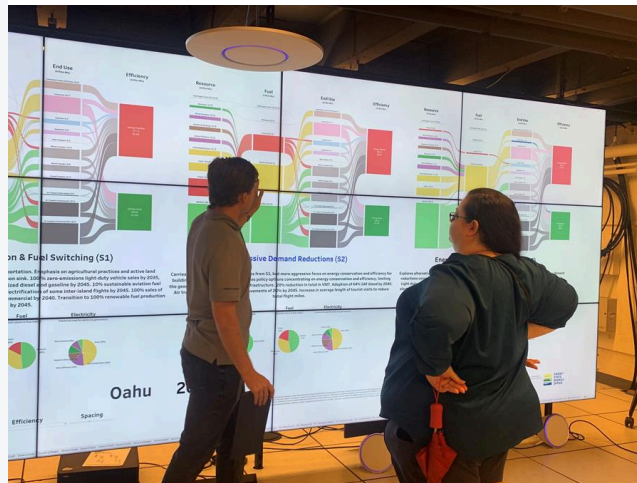
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Ratepayers could see higher bills as HECO pays off Maui wildfire damage costs](#)



Image courtesy of Ulupono Initiative

Statewide Survey Reveals Overwhelming Support for Renewable Energy Expansion in Hawai'i

Hawai'i Public Radio: [9 in 10 Hawai'i residents want more renewable energy](#) - [Statewide Energy Survey | Ulupono Initiative](#)



NGA delegates visit Lava Lab at UH Manoa

National Governors Association Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security Convenes in Honolulu

Governor Josh Green, M.D. welcomed The National Governors Association (NGA) to a Roundtable on Energy Resilience and Security for Territories and Islanded Communities from May 14-16 in Honolulu, bringing together energy, emergency response, and homeland security

leaders from states and territories, alongside federal partners, to address energy infrastructure threats, resilience planning, and emergency management.

Highlights included keynote sessions, moderated discussions, and action planning on energy security, resilience investments, and cybersecurity.

What Does Our Decarb Pathway Look Like?

Hawai'i's Pathways to Decarbonization Flowchart Dashboard is an interactive visual representation of four future economy-wide energy generation and consumption scenarios. Supplementing HSEO's recently published "[Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization](#)" report, these flowcharts reveal how differences in fuel switching demand reduction and energy efficiency influence all aspects of Hawai'i's economy. By filtering the dashboard by scenario, island, energy resource, fuel consumed, and end-use category, users can follow a Btu of energy from the beginning to the end of Hawai'i's energy system.

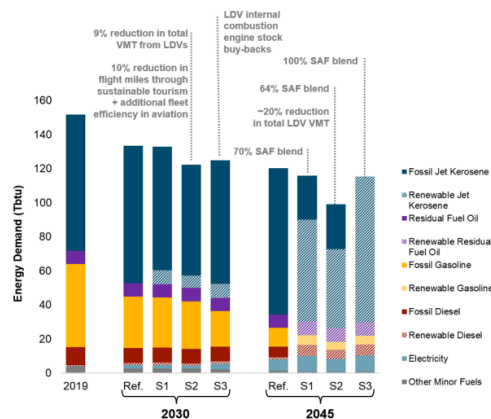


Figure 55 Transportation energy demand snapshots in 2019, 2030, and 2045

[Check out the Interactive Decarbonization Flowchart](#)

**Hawai'i Green Growth Working Group
Assesses Clean Energy Gaps and
Opportunities**



Deputy Energy Director Stephen C. Walls, HSEO Decarbonization Manager Monique Schafer, Jobs and Outreach Managing Director Cameron Black and Community Engagement Specialist Parker Kushima joined Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Islands Network at a statewide network meeting at Waiwai Collective to address gaps and opportunities on the Aloha + Dashboard for clean energy transformation. Mahalo Ben Sullivan, Mahina Paishon-Duarte and many others who joined a robust meeting on energy efficiency, affordability, community resilience and green workforce development.

3D Renewable Energy Model Piques Interest at the Molokai Resource Fair



*Featured: **Audrey Newman**, Sust'ainable Molokai, **Senator Lynn DeCoite**, and Chief Energy Officer **Mark Glick***

HAVEN is an interactive 3D planning tool that helps viewers visualize the impact of decisions on the energy landscape. In virtual reality, it shows

the tradeoffs and interdependencies of resource deployment in various scenarios, to achieve 100% renewable energy.

A new model, developed from Molokai's Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP), allowed residents at the annual Molokai Resource Fair to visualize sea level rise and see how the buildout of renewable energy impacts land use.

The Molokai CERAP is a model for how energy planning can be done in rural communities, on islands, across Hawai'i, and anywhere that values local decision making.

[Duplicating the Successful Molokai Energy Transition | Ililani Media](#)

Clean Energy Sector Partnership Builds Talent Pipeline



Established a year ago, the [Clean Energy Sector Partnership \(CESP\)](#) is an industry-led group of employers, educators, and community organizations that links qualified candidates to in-demand entry-level positions in the energy field, creating career pathways with training resources and on-the-job training.

[Good Jobs Hawai'i](#) is a \$35 million cross-sector public-private workforce development initiative dedicated to building a skilled talent pipeline in four of Hawai'i's growing industries: clean energy and skilled trades, information technology, healthcare and creative media.

Numerous and diverse clean energy trainings are offered, supported by federal funds for energy contractor and auditor training, educator externships and registered apprenticeships.

Mahalo to the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce for hosting this month's event. To join the CESP: Sign the [Talent Pledge](#), submit the [Intake Form](#) or contact HSEO directly at dbedt.energyoffice@hawaii.gov.



HSEO CAREERS

Energy Climate Communication Associate

The Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) is seeking an energetic and self-motivated individual to fill the role of Community Engagement and Communications Specialist as part of the AmeriCorps VISTA program. This role assists with ongoing community education, outreach and engagement for delivery across all platforms, including, but not limited to, websites, social media, print collateral, and articles for publication. The position will also support the State energy office in planning and execution of industry stakeholder and impacted community engagements, including meetings, facilitated charrettes, and surveys.

To Apply: Candidates must submit a VISTA application through the My AmeriCorps website at my.americorps.gov.

Project Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Direct inquiries and submit resumes to:
yvonne.l.hunter@hawaii.gov

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Events Calendar



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