



The Current Newsletter

July 2024

Mark's Message



Image courtesy of the Office of the Governor

Governor Josh Green, M.D. held a groundbreaking press conference on June 20, 2024 in which he signed several energy bills and joined youth plaintiffs in announcing the resolution of the *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* constitutional climate case.

For those of you not following the *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* lawsuit, it is the world's first youth-led constitutional climate case seeking to address climate pollution from the

transportation sector.

The settlement of *Navahine* is the first settlement agreement of its kind, in which state government entities have decided to work with youth plaintiffs to implement specific plans to decarbonize the state transportation system. In this case, Director of Transportation Ed Sniffen took unprecedented leadership to negotiate a resolution and embrace the government's kuleana (responsibility) to lead the way on bold and broad climate action.

In announcing the settlement, Director Sniffen noted that "Climate change is indisputable," adding that "Burying our heads in the sand and making it the next generation's problem is not pono. In our agreement with Our Children's Trust and Earthjustice we're committing to develop and use greenhouse gas emission measurements and reductions in vehicle miles traveled when we develop ground transportation projects and look for ways to translate that to our Airports and Harbors projects."

The Department of Transportation plans to dedicate at least \$40 million to expanding the public electric vehicle charging network by 2030 and accelerate improvements to the state's pedestrian, bicycle and public transit networks.

Energy bills signed into law:

SB2537 SD2 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO ENERGY.

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

HB2020 HD2 SD2 CD1 RELATING TO
RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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 in order to allow more public lands to be leased for the generation of more types of renewable energy.

HB2390 HD2 SD1 CD1 RELATING TO
RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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 of fuel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. E. G.', is positioned below the text.

Image courtesy of KHON2.

Keeping the Lights On

After the major power outages that affected Chinatown and parts of downtown, KHON2 gathered Hawai‘i’s power providers and overseers, as well as community leaders and policymakers,

to find out what's being done quickly to prevent these power problems from continuing.

Joining [Gina Mangieri](#) at [KHON2 News](#) to discuss some of those issues and more on Hawai'i's energy future and challenges were Jim Kelly, Hawaiian Electric Vice President of Government and Community Relations; Leo Asuncion, Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission; Chief Energy Officer Mark Glick, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee and Leroy Chincio, IBEW Local 1260 (featured left to right above.)

Link to the broadcast here:

<https://lnkd.in/g8PTQYz9>



Image courtesy of AES Hawai'i

Hawai'i's Largest Solar Project: AES Solar Plant on Maui

AES has launched Hawai'i's largest renewable energy project, the Kūihelani Solar Plus Storage facility, on Maui. This project spans 450 acres and generates 60 MW of renewable energy,

supplemented by a 240 MWh battery storage system. It supplies 15% of Maui's energy needs, providing power for approximately 27,000 homes at a cost of 8 cents per kilowatt-hour. This initiative is part of Hawai'i's efforts to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045, significantly reducing fossil fuel dependence and supporting local agriculture with dual-use land capabilities

For more details, see the [AES press release](#).

In the news:

- [AES Hawaii launches Kūihelani Solar-plus-Storage, Hawaii's largest renewable energy project | KHON2](#)
- [Massive renewable energy project at UH West O'ahu took years of dedication | University of Hawai'i System News \(hawaii.edu\)](#)

40 Hawai'i Businesses Recognized in 2023/2024 Hawai'i Green Business Program Awards



*Maui Bay Villas, Kings' Land Kaua'i and Hokulani Waikiki:
Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor*

June 28th, 2024, the Hawai'i Green Business Program announced 40 businesses, venues, and events as the recipients of this year's Hawai'i Green Business Program Awards. The [Hawai'i Green Business Program \(HGBP\)](#) is a free state program that assists and recognizes businesses that strive to operate in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The recognized businesses have shown consistent initiative by adopting energy and water-efficient and sustainable business practices that benefit their bottom line while promoting Hawai'i's clean energy and sustainability objectives.

[Learn more about the Hawai'i Green Business Program here](#)

[Hawai'i Green Business Program Photo Gallery](#)

[Living 808 Broadcast](#)



Featured: Kaua'i award winners with DBEDT Director James Tokioka. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor

With the help of Kaua'i Youth Climate Practitioners, HSEO Clean Energy Wayfinder Peyton Flint helped create a pathway for local businesses on Kaua'i to receive Hawai'i Green Business Awards in the entry-level category this year. Says Peyton, "It takes not only a green

thumb but a green heart of caring for the 'āina to accomplish what these dedicated small businesses achieved. These business owners work tirelessly and deserve state-wide recognition for making the extra effort to be eco-friendly and lead the way as stewards of the environment."

The Youth Climate Practitioners program allows students to actively engage with local organizations and community members to grow their interest in sustainability, helping to shape the future of Kaua'i. Great job, Kaua'i and great job, Peyton!

Learn more about the Wayfinders program [here](#).



HAVEN Meets FestPac

The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture concluded June 16th, after a 10-day celebration that brought 25 nations from across the Pacific to Hawai'i, featuring diverse cultural activities, talk story opportunities, and a spirit of mutual learning and support.

Amidst the festivities, the Hawai'i State Energy Office showcased HAVEN (Hawai'i Advanced Visualization Energy Nexus), an interactive 3D energy planning tool developed with the University of Hawai'i's LAVA LAB.

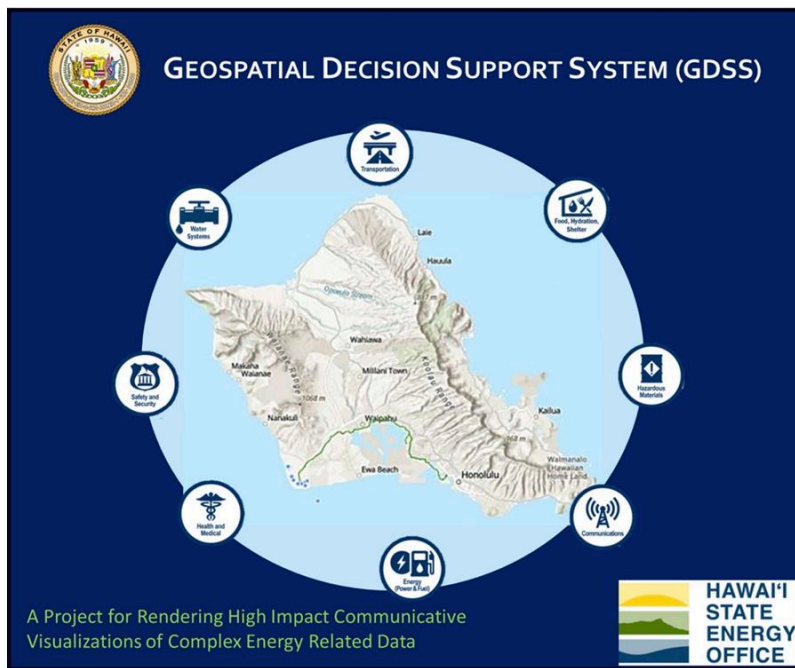
HAVEN demonstrates the tradeoffs and interdependencies of resource deployment in various scenarios, aiding in the transition to 100% renewable energy. By fostering collaboration and innovative solutions, Hawai'i and other Pacific nations can better prepare for and mitigate the threats they face as interconnected island communities.

Learn more about HAVEN:

[Clean Energy Vision - Hawai'i State Energy Office](#)

- KHON2: [The Hawai'i State Energy Office and LAVA LAB Create HAVEN](#)
 - [The Hawaii State Energy Office and LAVA LAB Create HAVEN \(youtube.com\)](#)

HSEO Wins Technology-Enhanced Business Capability Award for Emerging and Innovative Technologies



In an era marked by the challenges of climate change and evolving natural and man-made hazards, the urgency for continuous energy security planning and robust mitigation measures to protect the energy system has become increasingly clear.

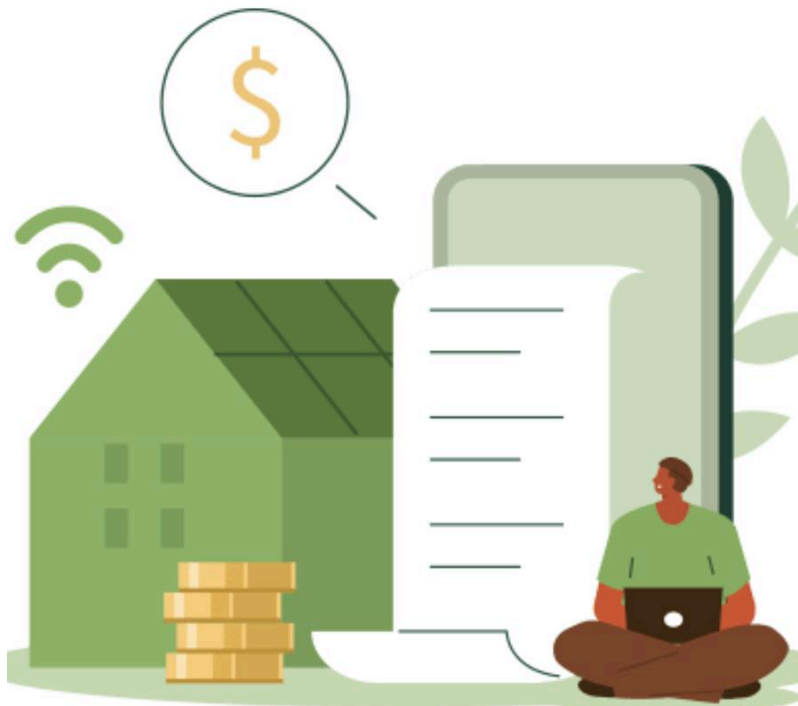
Designed to improve energy system situational awareness, energy security and hazard mitigation planning, emergency response, and disaster impact analysis, the Geospatial Decision Support System (GDSS) is a novel GIS-based advanced visualization tool, displaying dependencies of Community Lifelines on Critical Energy Infrastructure. It allows the state to prioritize risk mitigation strategies and investments in response to natural disasters like hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, as well as energy-specific disruptions such as fuel shortages, energy market instability, and supply chain issues.

Developed by the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) through a Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in partnership with the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), Office

of Homeland Security (OHS), Statewide GIS Program, ICF, various critical energy infrastructure (CEI) owners and operators, the GDSS has been submitted to the National Association of Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) national awards program to represent the State of Hawai'i on the national stage.

Congratulations to the HSEO Research, Clean Transportation and Analytics branch for this well-deserved recognition of their critically important work.

Federal Home Energy Rebates Update



HSEO is among the first states to complete its application for the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) program, moving us one step closer to providing low- and moderate-income households with the opportunity to install highly efficient appliances.

“The Hawai‘i State Energy Office is proud to join California, New York, Maine and Washington in reaching this important milestone towards the launch of our rebate programs later this year,” said Hawai‘i Chief Energy Officer Mark B. Glick. “We are excited about the program’s potential to reduce energy costs for households throughout Hawai‘i and are now actively seeking program implementation partners who may apply on our website.”

HSEO recently released a Request for Proposals for a rebate program implementer, which is [available here](#). In addition, the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory continue to develop the software integration tools required for states to implement the program. HSEO is working with the DOE on implementation plans encompassing income verification, quality assurance, and data risk analysis assessments — all required by the DOE before rebates can be issued.

We are working diligently to make rebates available by the end of the year. The Home Efficiency Rebate program for whole home retrofits is expected to launch in 2025. A State Progress Dashboard can be found [here](#). Please visit the HSEO website for program information and updates.



Energy in the News

Local News:

- KHON2: [New wheeling docket could usher big energy market shift](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Editorial: Energy demands to test isle users](#)
- KITV: [PUC allows Hawaiian Electric to sell assets](#)
- Civil Beat: [New Project Seeks To Build Offshore Wind Farms Near Kaiwi Channel](#)
- Civil Beat: [State Expects Upcoming Energy Study To Answer Cost And Carbon Questions For Hawaii](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Governor reignites debate over liquefied natural gas power](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Power restored in downtown Honolulu after 3 disruptive days](#)
- KHON2: [\\$11M solar canopy project begins at Blaisdell Center](#)
 - [City announces historic renewable energy project for Blaisdell Center \(youtube.com\)](#)
- KHON2: [Poor reliability could mean penalties for HECO](#)
- Star-Advertiser: [Power flows from new solar farm in Ewa Beach](#)
- Hawai'i Public Radio: [Newest solar project on O'ahu prepares to come online](#)
- KHON2: [Hawaiian Electric disables some safety features to prevent outages](#)
- Maui News: [New law expands solar opportunity for all](#)
- Civil Beat: [Transition To Renewables Not To Blame For Recent Power Grid Challenges](#)
- Kauai Now: [Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative continues to lead Hawai'i in renewable generation](#)

National News:

- Reuters: [Hawaii agrees to 'groundbreaking' settlement of youth climate change case](#)

- The Guardian: [Most people in petrostates want quick switch to clean energy, UN poll finds](#)
- NYT: [Is the Fight Against Big Oil Headed to the Supreme Court?](#)
- Canary Media: [Chart: US sets new record with \\$71B in clean energy investment](#)
- NYT: [How Electric Car Batteries Might Aid the Grid \(and Win Over Drivers\)](#)

[Join the Team](#)

[HSEO Social Media](#)

[Events Calendar](#)



Share

Forward

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

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)