



PRESS KIT

FAST FACTS | FAQ PRESS RELEASES

Location: Maui Arts & Cultural Center
1 Cameron Way, Kahului

Event Date: May 22-23, 2024

On-Line: <https://HawaiiEnergyConference.com>
Program: <https://hawaiienergyconference.com/program/>
Facebook: [hienergyconference](https://www.facebook.com/hienergyconference)
Twitter: [@HIenergyconf](https://twitter.com/HIenergyconf)
[#HEC2024](https://twitter.com/HIenergyconf)

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PRESENTERS

This event is presented by **Maui Economic Development Board** supported by the **County of Maui Office of Economic Development**.

The Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1982 with a mission to diversify Maui County's economy, building pathways to innovation, jobs and opportunity for our residents. Through partnerships with the public and private sector, MEDB undertakes projects that assists growth industries with navigating and thriving in our county, educates and trains residents for new careers, and engages our community in forums that determine future economic directions.

The Office of Economic Development is Maui County's center for advocacy for business development and entrepreneurship for all sectors of our economy. They are dedicated to creating synergy from government to the private sector in Energy, Agriculture, Tourism, Culture and Arts, Film, Workforce Development, and Business Development; and are a catalyst for diversifying Maui's economy.

www.hawaiienergyconference.com

2024 Hawaii Energy Conference – Reimagining Resilience

Prioritizing energy resilience within our homes, businesses, communities and industries is critical for maintaining a reliable, accessible supply of energy while also limiting system vulnerabilities to increasing natural disasters. But resilient energy systems also improve health, comfort, affordability and accessibility.

Join us May 22-23 at the 11th Hawaii Energy Conference (HEC) as we explore cutting edge solutions in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

With extreme weather events increasing in frequency and severity, discussions will explore the outsized impacts on the electric grid. Distributed energy resources (DERs) are a critical tool for strengthening energy resilience in this volatile operating environment due to their flexibility and wide-ranging applications.

Hear from experts how resilience planning can prioritize historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities that often receive the least investment in resilience planning efforts.

The HEC brings together visionaries, experts, and thought leaders to connect and explore the latest advancements shaping the energy landscape world-wide. Join us on Maui as we “talk story” on risk management, grid stability, and adaptive solutions that ensure a reliable and resilient energy supply.

Who should attend?

- Renewable energy industry professionals
- Developers and contractors interested in microgrids and off-grid
- Workforce development experts and organized labor representatives
- People interested in how energy and housing connect
- Climate and energy policymakers and regulators
- Entrepreneurs and innovators
- Environmentalists and sustainability advocates

History

The Hawaii Energy Conference (HEC) brings together experts on energy policy, strategies, leadership and innovation. Energy leaders from Hawaii, the Continental U.S., Asia-Pacific and more to exchange ideas on how to better serve our communities in today’s rapidly changing power generation and delivery environment.

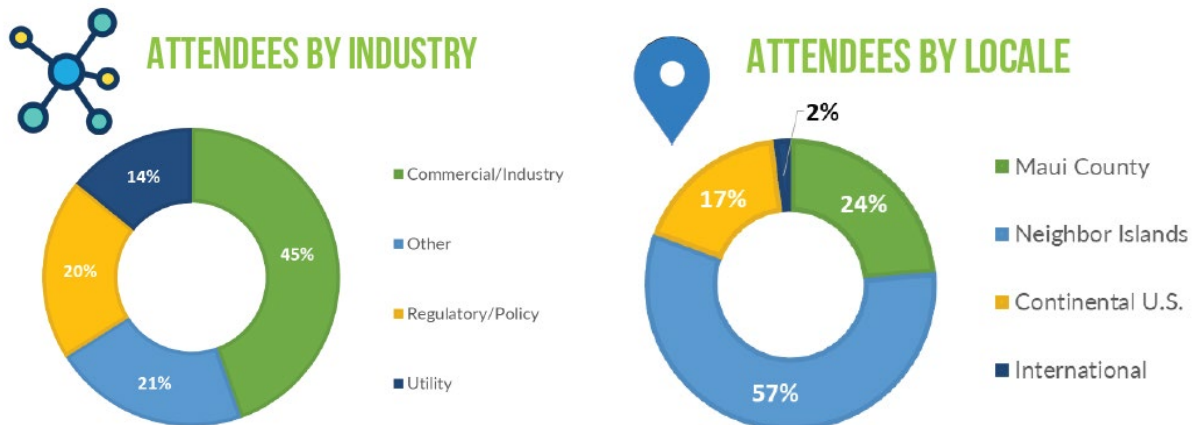
The first Energy Conference on Maui was held in 2014 to explore the challenges and opportunities in our nation’s transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Maui is a locus for major energy initiatives. The island has attracted leading national and international energy players and leads the nation with the highest density of EV usage. Hawaii was the first state to set a goal of being 100% renewable with a target of 2045 and is among the highest in the nation per capita for PV installations.

FAST FACTS - continued

Originally titled the Maui Energy Conference, the name was changed to Hawaii Energy Conference in 2019 to reflect what it has always been—the premier Energy Conference in Hawaii focused on statewide interests as seen through the prism of national and international developments in energy. From 2020 through to 2022 the conference was held virtually due to COVID-19.

A program committee establishes a theme for each conference, identifies speakers and develops the program featuring keynote presentations, panel discussions, networking and exhibits. Topics covered have included: the future of electric utilities, Hawaii's progress toward becoming 100% renewable, decarbonization, energy equity, innovation in the industry and more.

2023 ATTENDANCE



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Colton Ching | Senior Vice President, Planning & Technology, Hawaiian Electric

Jacqui Hoover | Co Chair, Conference Program Committee; Executive Director and COO Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB); and President Hawaii Leeward Planning

Damien Kim | Business Manager/Financial Secretary, International Brotherhood Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1186

Jonathan Koehn | Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer, City of Boulder

Doug McLeod | Member, DKK Energy Services, LLC

Robert “Rocky” Mould | Executive Director, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Maria Tome | Managing Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Hawaii State Energy Office

Wren Wescoatt | Director of Development, Hawaii Longroad Energy

Julie Yunker | Director of Sustainability, Government and Community Affairs, Hawaii Gas

Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter | Director, Government and Community Relations, Hawaiian Electric

FAST FACTS - continued

MAHALO TO 2024 Sponsors *Updated 4/26/24*

Champion

Uluono Initiative

Advocate

Aukahi Energy

Burns & McDonnell

Hawaii Energy

Hawaiian Electric

IBEW Local Union 1186

Island Energy Services

Moss & Associates

Par Hawaii

TerraForm Power

Supporter

AES

Canadian Solar

Generac Power Systems

Hawaii Gas

HNU Energy

JM Distributed Solutions

Jurchen Technology

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

Novatech Automation

Pacific Panel Cleaners

Puno Geothermal Ventures

Trio Energy Alliance

EXHIBITORS

AES

Burns & McDonnell

Canadian Solar

Generac Power Systems

IBEW Local Union 1186

Island Energy Services

HNU Energy

JM Distributed Solutions

Jurchen Technology

Novatech Automation

Pacific Panel Cleaners

Puno Geothermal Ventures

SDSU Center for Community Energy &
Environmental Justice

TerraForm Power

Trio Energy Alliance

Uluono Initiative

USDA, Rural Development

Who are the keynote speakers?



Katherine Blunt, will open the Hawaii Energy Conference on May 22

Katherine Blunt has covered power, renewable energy and utilities for The Wall Street Journal since 2018 and is based in San Francisco. Much of her work has focused on wildfires, drought and other challenges facing utilities in the West. Her coverage of PG&E was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and earned a Gerald Loeb award, the highest honor in business reporting. She is the author of “California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America’s Power Grid.” Katherine grew up in Maryland and attended Elon University. She lives in San Francisco.

Day 2 Invited speaker TBA

What other activities will the Hawaii Energy Conference feature?

In addition to panels and keynotes, the conference will feature interviews including short ‘insight’ videos to highlight Hawaii energy initiatives.

There will also be an exhibit hall with sponsors able to showcase their products or services. Networking is encouraged during breaks with breakfast, lunch and evening reception included in registration. A conference App allows for exhibitors and attendees to chat and to set up 1-on-1 virtual meetings to facilitate the invaluable networking that the conference is known for.

FAQS - continued

Why is this conference presented on Maui?

Maui is a locus for major energy initiatives. The island has attracted leading national and international energy players and leads the nation with the highest density of EV usage. Hawaii is among the highest in the nation per capita for PV installations. Renewable energy accounts for more than 50% of total energy usage on Maui.

In 2019, the name was changed from Maui Energy Conference to Hawaii Energy Conference to reflect what it has always been, the premier Energy Conference in Hawaii focused on statewide interests as seen through the prism of national and international developments in energy. The conference went virtual in 2020 in response to COVID-19 and return to the MACC welcoming in-person attendees in 2023.

What can we learn from these types of energy conversations?

At the inaugural 2014 conference, more than 200 recognized policy makers from state and federal government and the private sector gathered to talk candidly about the country's changing energy landscape and its implications for power utilities and consumers. The conference has since grown in scope, and size, and expects to welcome over 20% of its audience from international and U.S. mainland points. Past conference presentations and summary reports are found at: <https://hawaiienergyconference.com/archives>

How is the conference reaching out to customers, who cannot attend this conference live?

Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) will be recording the conference proceedings for future broadcast on the conference website.

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HAWAII ENERGY CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASES *(latest to earliest)*

Contact: Annette Lynch, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reimagining Resilience: Hawaii Energy Conference May 22-23

KIHEI, Maui, Hawaii, April 29, 2024 – In a world where extreme weather events are increasing in severity and frequency, prioritizing energy resilience for homes, businesses, and communities is the only path forward to maintain a reliable and accessible supply of energy. The 11th Annual Hawaii Energy Conference will explore cutting-edge solutions to improve resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

The conference will be held at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center from May 22-23 and will bring together experts in the field to share their knowledge and experiences.

“When we last got together in May 2023 the world looked very different,” said Doug McLeod of DKK Energy Services and a member of the Conference Program Committee. “Our focus for May 2024 is resilience. For me the conference will be a success if it gets people talking about not just how to rebuild the same grid with lower fire risks, but how we can consider other risks like hurricane, tsunami, and land-based quakes as we rethink the grid.”

Wall Street Journal Reporter Katherine Blunt will present the opening Keynote. Blunt is the author of *California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America’s Power Grid*; She has covered power, renewable energy and utilities for The Wall Street Journal since 2018 with much of her work focused on wildfires, drought and other challenges facing utilities in the West.

PANEL TOPICS INCLUDE:

Fueling the Future - a look at the difference between biodiesel, renewable diesel, renewable natural gas, and other biofuels. Can these fuels really help with resilience, and do they lower carbon emissions?

Resilience for Vulnerable Populations - Protecting vulnerable populations, including when designing microgrids, planning for distributed energy resource (DER) systems, and implementing power shutoff plans.

Powering Progress: What’s needed for a Resilient and Dynamic Energy Future - Perspectives on what has been achieved and what gaps need to be filled to ensure continued progress for Hawaii.

Resilient Solar - Innovations in residential solar. What are the installers in Hawaii doing to meet the needs of their customers? What are some island-by-island differences?

Using Virtual Power Plants to Support Resilience - A discussion of Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) and the new Hawaii Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. The panel will discuss the recent VPP Commercial Liftoff Report from the US Dept of Energy, lessons learned in Hawaii from the successes of the Battery Bonus Program, and challenges as we move ahead under the new BYOD Tariff. The Panel will also premiere a VPP Model Tariff and Legislation.

Centering Equity in Resilience Planning - Resilience planning must be culturally appropriate, participatory, and responsive to local needs. This panel will explore successful efforts to center equity in efforts to build resilience in our infrastructure, natural systems, social systems and communities.

Workforce Development and Energy Resilience - Do we have the labor force we need to increase resilience? Using the apprenticeship requirements of the Inflation Reduction Act to maximize benefits to the community from larger scale renewable energy projects.

Pathways for Geothermal Energy - Is more geothermal energy a good way to increase resilience? What other areas in Hawaii have a viable resource and how have the views of Native Hawaiian groups evolved toward geothermal energy.

Resilient Transportation - Are Electric Vehicles (EVs) part of the answer to increasing resilience? What is the status of the various technologies to allow Vehicle to Grid and Vehicle to Home power transfer.

Resilient Housing and Energy - Energy needs for resilient housing. What are some of the lessons learned since the August 2023 fires?

The panel discussions will be broken up with featured presentations and case studies. There will be an exhibit venue featuring the latest renewable energy technologies and services, as well as social events to facilitate networking and collaboration.

The Hawaii Energy Conference brings together experts and thought leaders to explore the latest advancements shaping the energy landscape including risk management, grid stability, and adaptive solutions that ensure a reliable and resilient energy supply. The cross-section of attendees include: renewable energy industry professionals; developers and contractors interested in microgrids and off-grid; workforce development experts and organized labor representatives; those interested in the intersection between energy and housing; climate and energy policymakers and regulators; entrepreneurs and innovators; and environmentalists and sustainability advocates.

“As the first state in the union to set a goal of getting to 100% renewables instead of fossil fuels, Hawaii positioned itself as a leader in the energy arena,” commented Jacqui Hoover, Conference Chair and Executive Director and COO Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB); and President Hawaii Leeward Planning. “While great strides have been made with approximately 35% of Hawaii’s energy needs being met by renewables, navigating to the target date of 2045 to achieve 100% penetration is complex. The Hawaii Energy Conference provides opportunity for attendees to engage in comprehensive and thoughtful discussion with representatives from every corner of the energy sector and set the stage for forward-thinking policy and advancement towards energy self-sufficiency and sustainability.”

Program details and registration can be viewed at www.hawaiienergyconference.com. An advance rate offers savings to those registering before May 15.

The Hawaii Energy Conference is presented by the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) with the support of the County of Maui Office of Economic Development. 2024 Sponsors are: Ulupono Initiative, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI), Ulupono Initiative, HNEI, Aukahi Energy, Burns & McDonnell, Hawaii Energy/Leidos, Hawaiian Electric, IBEW Local Union 1186, Island Energy Services, Moss & Associates, Par Hawaii, TerraForm Power, AES, Canadian Solar, Generac, Hawaii Gas, HNU Energy, J&M Distributed Solutions, Jurchen Technologies, Kauai Island Utility Coop, NovaTech, Pacific Panel Cleaners, Puna Geothermal Ventures and Trio Energy Alliance.

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PHOTO



Katherine Blunt, Author and Wall Street Journal Reporter



Jacquie Hoover, Conference Chair and Executive Director and COO Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB); and President Hawaii Leeward Planning



Doug McLeod, Member Conference Program Committee, DKK Energy Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award Winning Journalist to Keynote the Hawaii Energy Conference

KIHEI, Maui, Hawaii, February 20, 2024 – Author and Wall Street Journal reporter, Katherine Blunt, will kick off the 11th Hawaii Energy Conference (HEC) sharing her research and insights from the California wildfires and the fall of Pacific Gas and Electric. Presented by the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB), the conference will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, case studies and an exhibit venue as it explores the theme “Reimagining Resilience” May 22-23, 2024 at Maui Arts & Cultural Center.

Keynote speaker, Katherine Blunt is the author of *California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America's Power Grid*. Blunt's coverage of PG&E, reported in close collaboration with two colleagues, was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and earned a Gerald Loeb award, the highest honor in business journalism. The series also won the 2019 Thomas L. Stokes Award for energy and environmental writing, as well as a silver Barlett & Steele award through the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism.

“We believe people in Hawaii are genuinely interested in learning more about how wildfires caused the bankruptcy of PG&E so that they can see if there are lessons applicable to Hawaii,” said Doug McLeod, also a founding member of the HEC Program Committee.

With extreme weather events increasing in frequency and severity, the panels will discuss cutting edge solutions to improve resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Distributed energy resources (DERs), including PV coupled with batteries, are critical tools for strengthening energy resilience in this volatile operating environment.

“Prioritizing energy resilience within our homes, businesses, communities and industries is critical for maintaining a reliable, accessible supply of energy while also limiting system vulnerabilities to increasing natural disasters,” said Jonathan Koehn, a founding member of the HEC Program Committee and Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer, City of Boulder. “Resilient energy systems can also improve health, comfort, affordability and accessibility.”

Attendees will hear from experts on topics such as whether biofuels can really support resilience while lowering carbon emissions, and how resilience planning can prioritize historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities. The program will also provide an update from the Legislature and discuss the pros and cons of undergrounding and insulating electrical lines.

The HEC is supported by the County of Maui Office of Economic Development and brings together experts and thought leaders to connect and explore the latest advancements shaping the energy landscape world-wide. The Conference expects to draw participation from Hawaii, the Continental U.S., Asia-Pacific, and more for the discussions on risk management, grid stability, and adaptive solutions that ensure a reliable and resilient energy supply.

More details can be viewed at www.hawaiienergyconference.com. Registration is now open with early bird rates available until March 31.

Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1982 with a mission to diversify Maui County's economy, building pathways to innovation, jobs and opportunity for our residents. Through partnerships with the public and private sector, MEDB undertakes

projects that assists growth industries with navigating and thriving in our county, educates and trains residents for new careers, and engages our community in forums that determine future economic directions.

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PHOTO



CAPTION: Katherine Blunt, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal and author of California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America's Power Grid.