

12th HAWAII ENERGY CONFERENCE + EXHIBITION

May 21-22, 2025 | Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Presented by  maui economic DEVELOPMENT BOARD



The 12th Annual Hawaii Energy Conference (HEC), held May 21–22 in Maui, brought together **365 energy leaders, policymakers, innovators, and community advocates** to explore actionable strategies for Hawaii’s transition to a clean energy future under the theme **“Offering Solutions.”**

Hosted by the Maui Economic Development Board, the two-day conference featured dynamic keynote addresses, engaging panels, and in-depth discussions on the state’s most pressing energy challenges ranging from affordability and grid reliability to community priorities and advanced technologies.

Mayor Bissen gave opening remarks with a focus on Maui County’s commitment to sustainability through energy efficiency, water conservation, and culturally rooted decision-making. He highlighted completed upgrades at 139 county facilities and solar battery installations at 34 more, which are reducing costs, conserving over 81 million gallons of water annually, and creating local jobs.

Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office, delivered an extended introduction to the first panel of the day, replacing Governor Josh Green, M.D., who was unable to attend due to commitments in Washington, D.C. Glick outlined the state’s bold goal—accelerating to 100% renewable energy for Maui County, Hawaii, and Kauai by 2035. He emphasized the importance of reducing oil price volatility, improving grid reliability, and investing in local biofuels like sunflower-based biodiesel. Glick also raised critical questions about the alignment between Hawaii’s decarbonization laws and its renewable portfolio standards, urging a thoughtful balance between emissions reduction and energy self-sufficiency.

Glick was then joined on the stage by energy and regulatory leaders Shelee Kimura, President & CEO, Hawaiian Electric; Leo Asuncion, Chair, Public Utilities Commission; and Michael Angelo Executive Director, Division of Consumer Advocacy; and Rick Rocheleau, Director, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute; to discuss ‘Repowering & Resilience.’ The conversation focused on the dual imperatives of meeting Hawaii’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Act 238 carbon neutrality goals, while ensuring affordability, reliability, and community engagement.

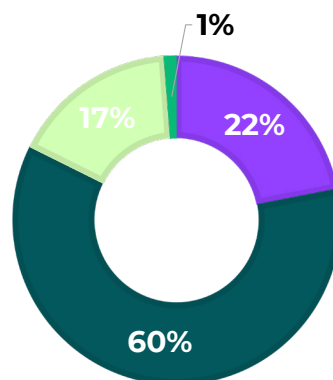
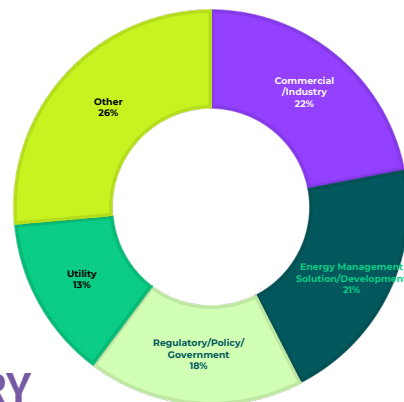
“It takes every one of us in this room, everybody on this stage, all of our partners here to make all of these things happen—to achieve these very aggressive goals Hawaii has,” said Kimura.

This year’s conference saw the introduction of a Deep Dive Session to provide an opportunity to explore a complex topic in greater detail with an intimate group. Led by economist Dr. Ahmad Faruqui, Jeremy Kwock, Manager of Pricing for Hawaiian Electric, and Jennifer Potter, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, the session examined the design of Time-of-Use (TOU) rates for Hawaii. Drawing from case studies in California, Michigan, Australia, and beyond, the group discussed how TOU structures could be adapted to Hawaii’s unique context—where solar is abundant, electric rates are high, and energy equity is paramount.

In addition to the general sessions, the conference provided networking opportunities for attendees with breakfast, lunch and receptions. The exhibit venue showcased organizations with the latest renewable energy technologies and services.



ATTENDEES BY INDUSTRY



- Maui County
- Neighbor Islands
- Continental U.S.
- International

ATTENDEES BY LOCALE



2025 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

WED | DAY 1

REPOWERING & RESILIENCE

Moderated by **Mark Glick**, Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office

Michael Angelo, Executive Director, Division of Consumer Advocacy, State of Hawaii

Leo Asuncion, Chair, Public Utilities Commission

Shelee Kimura, President & CEO, Hawaiian Electric

Richard (Rick) Rocheleau, Director, Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

FEATURED PRESENTATION | GEOTHERMAL UPDATE

Michael Kaleikini, Senior Director, Hawai'i Affairs, Puna Geothermal Venture - Ormat

FEATURED PRESENTATION | OHA'S VIEWS ON ENERGY

Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

POWER AND FIRE: HOW UTILITIES ARE CONFRONTING THE GROWING WILDFIRE THREAT

Moderated by **Jonathan Koehn**, Director of the City of Boulder Climate Initiatives Department

Mathew McNeff, Director of Maui County, Hawaiian Electric

Brad Rockwell, Chief of Operations, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, State of California

DEEP DIVE – DESIGNING TOU RATES FOR HAWAII THAT BALANCE AFFORDABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND GRID NEEDS

Discussion facilitated by **Dr. Ahmad Faruqui**, Economist-at-Large, **Jeremy Kwock**, Manager of Pricing, Hawaiian Electric and **Jennifer Potter**, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

COMMUNITY ENERGY PRIORITIES

Moderated by **Maria Tome**, Chief Research Analyst, Division of Consumer Advocacy, State of Hawaii

Leilani Chow, Molokai Clean Energy Hui

Joe Kent, Executive Vice President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Peck, President, Holu Hou Energy

UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Moderated by **Wren Wescoatt**, VP of Development, Longroad Energy

Nicola Park, Director, Clearway Energy

Kirstin Punu, Director, Hawaii Project Development, AES Hawaii

FEATURED CONVERSATION | A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Facilitated by **Doug McLeod**, Member, DKK Energy Services, LLC
Stacey Alapai, Co-Founder, Upcountry Energy Resilience Project
Henry Curtis, Life of the Land

UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF GRID SERVICES AND VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS (VPPS)

Moderated by **Jay Griffin**, Consultant, JPG Consulting LLC

Brian Gold, President & CEO, The Solaray Corporation

Antonio Torres-Miranda, Associate Commissioner, Energy Bureau of the Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board

Walker Wright, Vice President - Public Policy, SunRun

THU | DAY 2

OUTCOMES OF DEEP DIVE SESSION

Moderated by **Jacqui Hoover**, Chair, Conference Program Committee; Executive Director and COO Hawaii Island Economic Development Board; and President Hawaii Leeward Planning

Dr. Ahmad Faruqui, Economist-at-Large

Jennifer Potter, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

WHY NOT NUCLEAR?

Moderated by **Michael Colón**, Director, Energy Sector, Ulupono Initiative

Marcus Nichol, Executive Director, New Nuclear - Nuclear Energy Institute

Madison Schroder, Policy Coordinator, Generation Atomic

Jack Shriver, Sr. Program Manager, Indo-Pacific Region - POWER Engineers

UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WITH USAGE-BASED FUNDING

Moderated by **Lyla Berg**, Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners

Arnold Albiar, Managing Partner of Hawaii, Sustainability Partners

Dax Cuthbert, Director of Analytics, Sustainability Partners

Noel Morin, Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners

FEATURED PRESENTATION | WATTS UP WITH MAUI GENERATION?

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

Michael DeCaprio, Vice President of Power Supply, Hawaiian Electric

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Moderated by **Caroline Carl**, Executive Director, Hawaii Energy

Melanie Islam, Principal & Sustainability Director, MASON

Brian Kealoha, Chief Growth and Impact Officer, VEIC

Alana Kobayashi Pakkala, CEO & Partner, Kobayashi Group LLC

FEATURED CONVERSATION | OFFERING SOLUTIONS: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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

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

Jonathan Koehn, Director of the City of Boulder Climate Initiatives Department

Doug McLeod, Member, DKK Energy Services, LLC

POWERING THE FUTURE—BATTERY STORAGE, SAFETY & BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE

Moderated by **Damien Kim**, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Local 1186

Bernie Kotlier, Executive Director, Labor Management Cooperation Committee, California

Ryan Park, Director, Business Development, Moss Construction's Hawaii Division

UPDATES ON LOCAL PV INDUSTRY

Moderated by **Robert "Rocky" Mould**, Executive Director, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Brad Albert, Business Development Director, Nexamp

Kylie Wagner Cruz, Senior Attorney, Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office

Colin Yost, Commissioner, State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission