

12th HAWAII ENERGY CONFERENCE+EXHIBITION

May 21-22
2025
Maui, Hawaii

Presented by  **maui economic**
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



THE 2025 HAWAII ENERGY CONFERENCE: OFFERING SOLUTIONS

As local, national and international communities navigate a changing energy landscape, the 12th annual Hawaii Energy Conference brings industry leaders together to offer solutions addressing the most pressing energy challenges of today.

Featuring ten dynamic panels and one Deep Dive session over two days, the program will cover topics ranging from utility-scale renewable energy deployment to community-based initiatives, and the economics and advancements of exporting to the grid. Discussions will also tackle energy efficiency, sustainable financing strategies, alternative energy sources, job creation, training, and more.

Complementing the main stage discussions, the new Deep Dive session provides an intimate setting for up to 40 participants to engage directly with experts and explore complex issues like time-of-use rates.

The Hawaii Energy Conference also offers networking and exhibiting opportunities to connect with key stakeholders, industry experts, innovators, policymakers and more. Join us on Maui to gain insights, share ideas, and collaborate on actionable solutions to building a sustainable future for Hawaii and beyond.

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

7:00 AM **REGISTRATION | Founders Courtyard**
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | SPONSORED BY HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC

8:00 **CULTURAL OPENING | Castle Theater**
Luana Kawaa, Kumu Hula and Creator of Morning Mana'o

E KOMO MAI (WELCOME)

Leslie Wilkins, President and CEO, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.

REMARKS

Richard Bissen, Mayor, County of Maui

8:30**REPOWERING & RESILIENCE**

Hawaii's first-in-the-nation 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard and ambitious climate goals from Act 238 are dependent on a reliable electrical grid and a push by the State to make energy more affordable. What are the gaps and how should we prioritize next steps to meet these policy objectives?

Moderated by:

Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office

Panelists:

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

10:00**COFFEE BREAK AND EXHIBIT SESSION | SPONSORED BY HAWAII ENERGY | Exhibit Hall**

RELAX & RECHARGE AT THE ULUPONO INITIATIVE CHARGING LOUNGE
Castle Lobby

10:30**FEATURED PRESENTATION | GEOTHERMAL UPDATE**

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

10:45**FEATURED PRESENTATION | OHA'S VIEWS ON ENERGY**

Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Maui Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

11:00**POWER AND FIRE: HOW UTILITIES ARE CONFRONTING THE GROWING WILDFIRE THREAT**

As climate change intensifies, wildfires are becoming a greater risk to energy infrastructure. This session will explore how utilities are adapting, from grid hardening and undergrounding to advanced monitoring and AI-driven risk management. Experts will discuss best practices, regulatory challenges, and the future of wildfire resilience in the energy sector.

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

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

11:00

DEEP DIVE – DESIGNING TOU RATES FOR HAWAII THAT BALANCE AFFORDABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND GRID NEEDS (SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED) | Higashi Meeting Room

This 90-minutes session is concurrent with activity on the main stage, limited to 40 pax.

This deep dive will examine different TOU rate structures, drawing insights from several regions around the world where they have been deployed, including California, Colorado, Michigan, New York, Australia, and Europe. It will discuss lessons learned from these deployments and address the following questions: Should multiple TOU rates be offered? Should one of them be the default tariff and others be opt-in tariffs? How should customers be informed about the benefits of TOU rates?

We will then translate these insights to Hawaii's unique circumstances: modest HVAC load, extensive electric water heating load, high electric rates, high electric bills, and high solar adoption rates often coupled with battery storage. Participants will discuss innovative rate structures, policy considerations, and implementation strategies that could make TOU rates both just and effective.

With Hawaii's high penetration of solar energy, time-of-use (TOU) rates have the potential to encourage energy use when renewable generation is abundant and reduce reliance on fossil fuels during periods of peak demand. However, designing TOU rates that balance grid needs, customer choice, and affordability remains challenging—especially in a state with a high cost of living, the nation's highest electric rates, and a diverse population with varying energy-use flexibility.

Join us as we tackle the critical question: Can TOU rates be designed to support Hawaii's clean energy transition while remaining equitable and affordable for all?

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

12:00 PM NETWORKING LUNCH | SPONSORED BY MOSS & ASSOCIATES

Founders Courtyard

EXHIBIT SESSION WITH DESSERTS SPONSORED BY PAR HAWAII

Exhibit Hall

1:30 COMMUNITY ENERGY PRIORITIES

We will catch up on projects for Molokai and other Islands, and discuss lessons learned to date about community priorities for energy.

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

Leilani Chow, Molokai Clean Energy Hui

Joe Kent, Executive Vice President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Peck, President, Holu Hou Energy

2:30 UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

From tariffs to supply chain to credit risks, how can large PV projects find solutions to unexpected challenges and stay on track?

Moderated by:

Wren Wescoatt, VP of Development, Longroad Energy

Panelists:

Nicola Park, Director, Clearway Energy

Kirstin Punu, Director, Hawaii Project Development, AES Hawaii

3:30 AFTERNOON BREAK | SPONSORED BY ISLAND ENERGY SERVICES

Exhibit Hall

4:00 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

4:15 UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF GRID SERVICES AND VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS (VPPS)

Customer-sited distributed energy resources (DERs) are transforming the grid by providing essential services that enhance reliability, resilience, and affordability. This panel will explore how grid services and VPPs have been successfully implemented in leading jurisdictions, including Hawaii's Battery Bonus program, Massachusetts' Connected Solutions, and Puerto Rico's emerging VPP initiatives. What lessons can Hawaii take from these models to shape the future of its Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Grid Services program? How can these programs evolve to maximize benefits for all customers, including lower- and middle-income households? Join us for a discussion on the role of policy, market incentives, and program design in scaling customer participation and optimizing grid services from DERs.

Moderated by:

Jay Griffin, Consultant, JPG Consulting LLC

Panelists:

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

5:15-6:45 PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION | Exhibit Hall**

THURSDAY, MAY 22

7:00 AM **REGISTRATION**
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | Founders Courtyard

8:00 **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 Faruqi, Economist-at-Large

Jennifer Potter, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

8:30 **WHY NOT NUCLEAR?**

Exploring the legal, safety, and technological landscape of nuclear energy in Hawaii

Moderated by:

Michael Colón, Director, Energy Sector, Ulupono Initiative

Panelists:

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

9:30 **COFFEE BREAK AND EXHIBIT SESSION | SPONSORED BY IBEW**
LOCAL 1186 | Exhibit Hall

RELAX & RECHARGE AT THE ULUPONO INITIATIVE CHARGING LOUNGE
Castle Lobby

10:00 UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WITH USAGE-BASED FUNDING

Hawaii's essential infrastructure is the foundation of economic growth, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. These critical assets, from energy and water systems to transportation and housing, are vital to meeting the state's evolving needs. However, limited access to capital has delayed maintenance, slowed expansion, and hindered progress - putting essential infrastructure at risk.

Moderated by:

Lyla Berg, Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners LLC

Panelists:

Arnold Albiar, Managing Partner of Hawaii, Sustainability Partners LLC

Dax Cuthbert, Director of Analytics, Sustainability Partners LLC

Noel Morin, Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners LLC

11:00 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

**11:15 NETWORKING LUNCH | SPONSORED BY HNEI | Founders Courtyard
EXHIBIT SESSION WITH DESSERT SPONSORED BY TERRAFORM POWER
Exhibit Hall****12:45 PM ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Energy efficiency has provided substantial bill savings in Hawaii over the last fifteen years. However, the landscape for efficiency has become increasingly challenging, especially when the push for affordable housing is viewed at odds with up-front investments needed for long-term savings. This panel will discuss the needed solutions to ensure Hawaii continues to benefit from the cost-effectiveness that energy efficient resources provide.

Moderated by:

Caroline Carl, Executive Director, Hawaii Energy

Panelist:

Melanie Islam, Principal & Sustainability Director, MASON

Brian Kealoha, Chief Growth and Impact Officer, VEIC

Alana Kobayashi Pakkala, CEO & Partner, Kobayashi Group LLC

1:45 FEATURED CONVERSATION | OFFERING SOLUTIONS: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

By audience request we are offering a roundtable discussion with several members of the Program Committee. Each participant will be asked to discuss solutions to some of the problems discussed in the conference.

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

2:00 **POWERING THE FUTURE—BATTERY STORAGE, SAFETY & BUILDING A STRONG WORKFORCE**

Licensing requirements for PV work with batteries are already in place in many areas. What are these requirements and are they fair to PV installers? What programs are in place in Hawaii to train on safe battery installation?

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

Bernie Kotlier, Executive Director, Labor Management Cooperation Committee, California
Ryan Park, Director, Business Development, Moss Construction's Hawaii Division

3:00 **AFTERNOON BREAK | SPONSORED BY JOHNSON CONTROLS | Exhibit Hall**

3:30 **DER PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE HAWAI'I'S RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS**

Panelists discuss what needs to be done and how to achieve Hawaii's ambitious goals along with the potential obstacles.

Moderated by:

Robert "Rocky" Mould, Executive Director, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Panelists:

Brad Albert, Business Development Director, Nexamp
Kylie Wager Cruz, Senior Attorney, Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office
Colin Yost, Commissioner, State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

4:30 **CLOSING**

4:45 - 6:00 PM **WOMEN IN RENEWABLE ENERGY (WiRE) PAU HANA | Founders Courtyard**

Enjoy light appetizers as you network with WiRE members. Open to all attendees.

2025 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

Michael Colón | Director, Energy Sector, Ulupono Initiative

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

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

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Maria Tome | Chief Research Analyst, Division of Consumer Advocacy, State of Hawaii

Wren Wescoatt | VP of Development, Longroad Energy

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

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