

PRESS KIT



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On-Line: <https://HawaiiEnergyConference.com>
Program: <https://hawaiienergyconference.com/program/>
Facebook: [hienergyconference](#)
Twitter: [@HIenergyconf](#)
[#HEC2021](#)

Contact: **Frank De Rego, Jr.**
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Location: Virtual – online using EventCadence platform

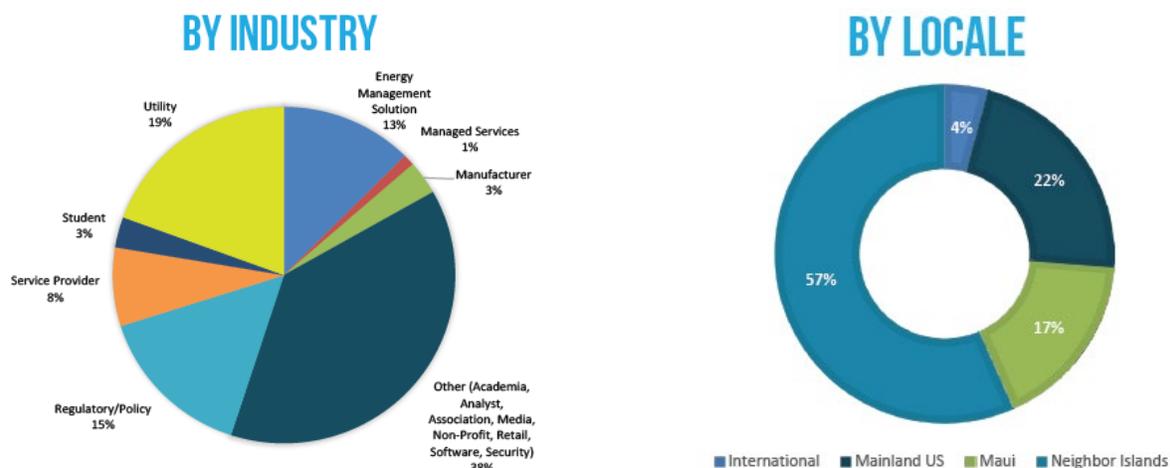
Event Date: June 22 & 24, 2021

FAST FACTS

History: The Hawai'i Energy Conference (HEC) brings together regional and national experts on energy policy, strategies, leadership and innovation. The first conference was held in 2014 to explore the challenges and opportunities in our nation's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Participation has grown from 281 participants the first year to 413 in 2019. In 2020 the conference went virtual due to COVID-19 extending our reach and increasing attendance to 649.

2020 Attendance



2021 HEC: The 2021 Conference will explore the theme *The Energy Transition in Hawaii: Focus on investments in people and projects.*

There are many ways to invest in the future of energy in Hawaii. It will take creativity and hard work from project developers; the community, including indigenous groups; regulators; and energy service providers to come up with projects that are acceptable for all concerned. Building trust and respect between stakeholders within the context of equitable community development will be a key metric of success. Any viable project will require substantial amounts of financial capital and an adequate return on investment. The skill development and job creation that results must take us towards a new energy economy. Every community faces similar challenges – how can we invest in people while designing energy projects that are financially viable, resilient, and enhance job skills?

FAST FACTS - continued

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.

Program

Committee: **Caroline Carl** | Deputy Director, Hawaii Energy
Colton Ching | Senior Vice President, Planning & Technology, Hawaiian Electric
Frank De Rego Jr. | Vice Chair, Conference Program Committee; Director of Business Development Projects, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
Alex De Roode | Energy Commissioner, Office of Economic Development County of Maui
Jonathan Koehn | Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer, City of Boulder
Doug McLeod | Chair, Conference Program Committee; Member, DKK Energy Services, LLC
Robert "Rocky" Mould | Executive Director, Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Tricia Rohlfig | Vice President of Finance, Hawaii Pacific Solar
Maria Tome | Managing Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Hawaii State Energy Office

FAST FACTS - continued

SPONSORS: CHAMPION

Hawaiian Electric
Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Ulupono Initiative

STAKEHOLDER

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC)
Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind
Swell Energy

ADVOCATE

AES
Burns & McDonnell
Cambrian Innovation
Elemental Excelerator

EXHIBITORS:

AES
Burns & McDonnell
CoolGreenPower
Generac Power Systems
Hawaiian Electric
Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Elemental Excelerator
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind
Solar Coaster
Swell Energy
Ulupono Initiative

What will be the focus of the 2021 Hawaii Energy Conference?

The 2021 Conference will explore the theme The Energy Transition in Hawaii: Focus on investments in people and projects. Topics include:

- Investing Respectfully in Hawaii
- Distributed Energy Resources: Clean, Affordable, and Resilient Power for a Carbon-Free Energy Future
- How Will ESG Affect Energy Investment in Hawaii?
- Possible federal decarbonization standards – how could that change policies, plans, rules, and regulation in Hawaii?
- Hawaii’s Inclusive Energy Transition
- Carbon Pricing
- Energy Burden and Equity – Designing Energy Efficiency Programs Post Covid
- Deploying Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Projects Across the Hawaiian Islands: Highlights and Comparisons from Individual Islands

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. Media partner Solar Coaster will help to produce and air these videos before and during the conference.

There will also be a virtual exhibit hall with sponsors able to showcase their products or services through documents and/or videos. The virtual platform will be available up to a week prior and allows for exhibitors and attendees to chat and to set up 1-on-1 virtual meetings to provide the invaluable networking that the conference is known for.

Why is this conference presented on Maui?

It is no coincidence that this conference is presented on the island of Maui. Maui is already 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, and is among the highest in the nation per capita for PV installations. Renewable energy accounts for more than 30% 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 is looking to forward to welcoming attendees back to Maui in 2022.

FAQS - continued

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/proceedings/>

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: Frank De Rego, Jr., Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speakers Announced for Hawaii Energy Conference June 22 & 24

KIHEI, Maui, Hawaii, June 4, 2021 – With the days counting down to the 8th Hawaii Energy Conference, the keynote and invited speakers have been announced. Suleman Khan of Swell Energy will give the keynote on Day 1 – June 22; and Mark Toney is the invite speaker on Day 2 – June 24.

Presented by Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) and supported by the County of Maui Office of Economic Development, the virtual conference will explore the “Energy Transition in Hawaii: Focus on investments in people and projects.” The 2021 theme will look to answer a key question - how can we invest in people while designing energy projects that are financially viable, resilient, and enhance job skills?

The CEO of Swell Energy, Suleman Khan will speak on ‘Creating Transformative & Inclusive Investment Opportunities with Virtual Power Plants.’

“With the propagation of distributed energy storage, the intrinsic value and investment outlook for renewable Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) is rapidly changing,” says Khan. “The ability to aggregate thousands of DERs into a centralized Virtual Power Plant (VPP) is finally allowing for meaningful inclusion of renewable DERs into the resource planning, grid operations, and energy portfolios of utilities in key markets.”

As CEO of Swell Energy, an energy and grid services company, Suleman directs Swell’s project development, project finance and grid services efforts. In the decade prior to launching Swell, Suleman worked within renewable energy and structured finance, productizing solar and energy storage applications for the residential and commercial markets.

Khan’s keynote will be followed by a panel titled ‘Investing Respectfully in Hawaii’, moderated by Frank De Rego, Jr., Vice Chairman of the Program Committee, President of the Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, and Director of Business Development Projects, MEDB. Employing a cultural and indigenous lens to focus on the dos and don’ts of developing energy projects in Hawaii, De Rego will be joined by Carol-Marie Ka’onohipi Lee (Po’o, ‘Aha Moku O Honua’ula Council) Suzanne Singer (Founder/Executive Director, Native Renewables) and Wren Wescoatt (Director of Development, Hawaii, Longroad Energy.)

De Rego observed “I believe our conference attendees will benefit from the cultural ‘ike (knowledge) to be shared in this panel as it impacts the development of energy projects in our respective communities. Along with our experienced Native Hawaiian panelists, we are fortunate to have Suzanne Singer, Ph.D. of the Navajo Nation who is a mechanical engineer and founder of the non-profit Native Renewables in Northern Arizona. She will share the

cultural dimensions of her work in developing energy projects for those in rural Hopi and Navajo communities that are off the electrical grid.”

Day 2, June 24, will kick off with Mark Toney of The Utility Reform Network (TURN) with his talk, ‘Stop Overpaying for Solar: And Other Pathways to Affordable Bills.’

As executive director since 2008, Mark aligns the TURN legal, organizing, legislative and communication staff to fight for affordable, sustainable and safe energy, broadband and phone service for all California residents, with a special focus on low-income households, communities of color, immigrants, and rural communities.

The online event features keynotes, panel discussions, interviews, showcases and exhibits all in the virtual setting. Attendees can visit the virtual exhibit hall to connect via chat and video with sponsors as well as view videos and resources of their products and services. Networking has been a key feature of the Hawaii Energy Conference since its inception in 2014 and the virtual platform will be open in advance, encouraging attendees to connect and build important relationships prior to, during and after the conference.

Companies featured in the Exhibit Hall are sponsors: Hawaiian Electric Company; the Hawai`i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI); Ulupono Initiative; Elemental Excelerator; Kauai Island Utility Cooperative; Progression Offshore Wind; Swell Energy; Burns & McDonnell; and Exhibitors CoolGreenPower and Generac Power Systems.

With in-person gatherings still limited due to COVID-19, the virtual presentation allows the energy industry leaders from Hawaii, the Continental U.S., Japan and Europe to continue to exchange ideas on how to better serve the community in today’s rapidly changing power generation and delivery environment.

For information on how to register and other details, visit:
www.hawaiienergyconference.com.

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PHOTO



Suleman Khan, CEO, Swell Energy will give the Keynote on Day 1 of the Hawaii Energy Conference.



Mark Toney, Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN) will kick-off Day 2 of the Hawaii Energy Conference



Frank De Rego, Jr, Director of Business Development Projects, MEDB and President of the Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce will moderate the panel, Investing Respectfully in Hawaii

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conference to explore the Energy Transition in Hawaii

KIHEI, Maui, Hawaii, April 1, 2021 – The 8th Hawaii Energy Conference will again be virtual in 2021 and will explore the “Energy Transition in Hawaii: Focus on investments in people and projects.” Presented by Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) and supported by the County of Maui Office of Economic Development, the annual conference will feature keynotes, panel discussions, interviews and exhibits over two days – June 22 and 24.

With in-person gatherings still limited due to COVID-19, the virtual presentation allows the energy industry leaders from Hawaii, the Continental U.S., Japan and Europe to continue to exchange ideas on how to better serve the community in today’s rapidly changing power generation and delivery environment.

"In Hawai'i we are approaching the renewable energy 'tipping point' where most of the daytime energy on the grid comes from renewable energy," said Doug McLeod, Chair of the Hawaii Energy Conference Program Committee. "2021 promises to be another year of big change in the energy sector both in Hawaii and the rest of the nation."

There are many ways to invest in the future of energy in Hawaii. It will take creativity and hard work from project developers; the community, including indigenous groups; regulators; and energy service providers to come up with projects that are acceptable for all concerned. Building trust and respect between stakeholders within the context of equitable community development will be a key metric of success. Any viable project will require substantial amounts of financial capital and an adequate return on investment. The skill development and job creation that results must take us towards a new energy economy.

Every community faces similar challenges – how can we invest in people while designing energy projects that are financially viable, resilient, and enhance job skills?

“Hawaii faces increased conflict in siting utility-scale energy projects – a challenge shared by many communities in the U.S.” added Frank De Rego, Jr., Director of Business Development Projects, MEDB, and Vice Chairman of the Program Committee. “For many consumers, the essential question is, ‘When will all of us experience the tangible benefits of the new energy transition?’ Good question.”

The conference will also include a virtual exhibit hall for companies to showcase their products and services and connect with attendees. Networking has been a key feature of the Hawaii Energy Conference since its inception in 2014 and the virtual platform will be open in advance, encouraging attendees to connect and build important relationships prior to, during and after the conference.

More details on the program and speakers will be released in the coming months in the countdown to June 22.

For information on how to register and other details, visit: www.hawaiienergyconference.com.

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PHOTO



Doug McLeod, Chair, Conference Program Committee
Member, DKK Energy Services LLC



CAPTION: Frank De Rego, Jr, Director of Business Development Projects, MEDB and Vice Chair
of Conference Program Committee