



## 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? [Join us for the 8th Annual Hawaii Energy Conference](#) as we explore how to invest with knowledge and respect in Hawaii.

### TUESDAY 22 JUNE

**7:45 AM HST**      **COFFEE WITH THE EXHIBITORS AND MORNING ENERGIZER**

**8:00**                **CULTURAL OPENING**

**Clifford Nae'ole**, Cultural Advisor, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

**E KOMO MAI (WELCOME)**

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

**Frank De Rego**, Vice Chair, Conference Program Committee; Director of Business Development Projects, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.

**Doug McLeod**, Chair, Conference Program Committee; Member, DKK Energy Services

**8:15**                **KEYNOTE ADDRESS | CREATING TRANSFORMATIVE & INCLUSIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS**

**Suleman Khan**, CEO, Swell Energy

*Introduction by **Doug McLeod**, Chair, Conference Program Committee; Member, DKK Energy Services*

**8:45**                **PANEL | INVESTING RESPECTFULLY IN HAWAII**

*Project Development must balance several factors - social, cultural, and financial. This discussion will employ a cultural lens to focus on the dos and don'ts of developing energy projects in Hawaii.*

Moderated by:

**Frank De Rego Jr**, Vice Chair, Conference Program Committee; Director of Business Development Projects, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.

Panelists:

**Carol-Marie Ka'onohi Lee**, Po'o, 'Aha Moku O Honua'ula Council

**Suzanne Singer**, Founder/Executive Director, Native Renewables  
**Wren Wescoatt**, Director of Development, Hawaii, Longroad Energy

**9:30 NETWORKING BREAK (15 MIN)**

**9:45 PANEL | DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES: CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, AND RESILIENT POWER FOR A CARBON-FREE ENERGY FUTURE**

*Hawaii is at the leading edge of distributed rooftop solar and storage. Learn what's happening in the DER market here in Hawaii and globally as market participants and policy-makers team up to innovate and build a more resilient electrical grid and economy to combat climate change and prosper.*

Moderated by:

**Clarice Schafer**, Supervising Utility Analyst, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Panelists:

**Jon Fortune**, VP, Grid Services Market Development, Swell Energy

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

**Kylie Wager Cruz**, Staff Attorney, Earthjustice

**10:30 PANEL | HOW WILL ESG AFFECT ENERGY INVESTMENT IN HAWAII?**

*An insightful discussion on how companies' commitments to environmental impacts, social aspects and governance are impacting investment decisions and how that may shape Hawaii's energy future.*

Moderated by:

**Lorraine Akiba**, President/CEO, LHA Ventures

Panelists:

**Jon Powers**, Co-founder and President, Clean Capital

**Dana Sato**, Director, Leasing & Transactions, Community & 'Āina Resiliency Group,  
Kamehameha Schools

**Scott Valentino**, President, Pacific Current

**11:15 MEET THE EXHIBITORS AND REFRESHMENT BREAK (30 MIN)**

**11:45 INTERVIEW | PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER JENNIFER POTTER**

*Discussion with Hawaii Public Utilities Commissioner Jennifer Potter on Performance Based Regulation*

Interviewed by **Joshua W. Porter**, Founder & Co-host, Solar Coaster

**12:05 PM PANEL | POSSIBLE FEDERAL DECARBONIZATION STANDARDS – HOW COULD THAT CHANGE POLICIES, PLANS, RULES, AND REGULATION IN HAWAII?** Sponsored by  **Hawaiian Electric**

*Discussions are taking place in Washington on establishing national clean energy standards based upon one of several national, economy-wide decarbonization standards. How could such a national clean energy standard impact Hawaii's efforts? What impact might it have on Hawaii policy, plans to achieve 100% RPS and other Hawaii goals, and how does it impact regulation in Hawaii?*

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

**Murray Clay**, President, Ulupono Initiative

**Scott Glenn**, Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office

**Josh Sawislak**, Senior Advisor, Hawaii Green Growth  
**Ed Sniffen**, Deputy Director for Highways, Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii

- 12:50 FINAL STRETCH (10 MIN)**  
Stretch activity geared towards common ailments of WFH/ergonomically challenged environments.
- 1:00 SPOTLIGHT TALK | INVESTING IN EVs** Sponsored by   
*This featured presentation by Ulupono Initiative will highlight some of the important initiatives in Electric Vehicles and Transportation.*
- 1:15 END OF DAY ONE**

## THURSDAY 24 JUNE

- 7:45 AM HST COFFEE WITH THE EXHIBITORS AND MORNING ENERGIZER**
- 8:00 WELCOME TO DAY TWO**
- 8:10 INVITED TALK | STOP OVERPAYING FOR SOLAR: AND OTHER PATHWAYS TO AFFORDABLE BILLS**  
**Mark Toney**, Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network  
  
*Introduction by Frank De Rego Jr, Vice Chair, Conference Program Committee; Director of Business Development Projects, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.*
- 8:30 HAWAII'S INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITION**  
*A conversation, between Chief Energy Officer **Scott Glenn** of the Hawaii State Energy Office and Community Leader **Sunny Unga**, about including and welcoming perspectives and input from Hawaii's communities during Hawaii's energy transition.*
- 9:15 COMMUNITY INSIGHTS: DIFFERENT VIEWS, SIMILAR GOALS**  
*Join us for a series of interviews showcasing the energy innovations, challenges, and goals within our community. Featuring **Leilani Chow**, Project Manager for Molokai Clean Energy Hui; **Henry Curtis**, Executive Director and Vice President of Life of the Land; **Bob King**, President and Founder of Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC. Interviews conducted by Solar Coaster's **Josh Porter** and Conference Chair **Doug McLeod**.*
- 9:45 NETWORKING BREAK (30 MIN)**
- 10:15 SPOTLIGHT TALK | HYDROGEN**  
Facilitated by **Joshua W. Porter**, Founder & Co-host, Solar Coaster  
  
**Chuck Collins**, Board Member, Hawaii Hydrogen Alliance  
**Michelle Detwiler**, Executive Director, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance
- 10:30 PANEL | CARBON PRICING**  
The author of the recent Hawai'i carbon pricing study and the Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee of Hawai'i's House of Representatives will be joined by the Executive Director

of CleanBC Implementation to discuss the findings of Hawai'i's study, carbon tax experiences in British Columbia, and economic effects and effectiveness of carbon-based dividends.

Moderated by:

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

Panelists:

**Makena Coffman**, Director, Institute for Sustainability and Resilience, University of Hawaii Mānoa

**Neil Dobson**, Executive Director, CleanBC Implementation

**Representative Nicole Lowen**, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, State of Hawaii

**11:15**                    **MEET THE EXHIBITORS AND REFRESHMENT BREAK (30 MIN)**

**11:45**                    **INTERVIEW | ELEMENTAL EXCELERATOR'S DAWN LIPPERT**

**12:05 PM**              **PANEL | ENERGY BURDEN AND EQUITY – DESIGNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS POST COVID**

*With the highest electricity rates in the country, many families and businesses in Hawaii struggle to afford high energy bills every month. This has only been exacerbated by the high cost of living and the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These high energy burdens disproportionately impact those already struggling to make ends meet. How are energy efficiency programs throughout the country digging deeper into equity challenges and solutions? How is energy burden measured? What role do cities play in establishing an equity-centered practice to be normalized, organized and operationalized?*

Moderated by:

**Caroline Carl**, Deputy Director, Hawaii Energy

Panelists:

**Ariel Drehobl**, Local Policy Manager, Energy Equity, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

**Rebecca Foster**, CEO, VEIC

**Laurien (Lala) Nuss**, Climate Resilience and Equity Manager, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, City and County of Honolulu

**12:50**                    **FINAL STRETCH (10 MIN)**

**1:00**                    **PANEL | DEPLOYING UTILITY-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ACROSS THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS: HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPARISONS FROM INDIVIDUAL ISLANDS**

*As one of the most remote land masses in the world, the Hawaiian Islands are a unique place to deploy utility-scale renewable energy projects. The Hawaiian Islands also feature unique contexts and considerations between individual islands. From differences in available renewable energy resources, to nuances in topography, to diversity in community makeup and community engagement approaches, join us for a tour highlighting the opportunities and challenges of deploying various types of technologies and various approaches to renewable energy project implementation across a diverse range of communities throughout the Hawaiian Islands.*

Moderated by:

**Alex DeRoode**, Energy Commissioner, Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resilience, County of Maui

Panelists:

**David Bissell**, President and CEO, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC)

**Mike Kaleikini**, Senior Director for Hawaiian Affairs, Ormat

**Matthew Shields**, Offshore Wind Engineer, National Wind Technology Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**Todd Yamashita**, President, Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

**1:45**

**CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**2:00**

**END OF DAY TWO**