



# 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)

**Contact:** **Sandy Ryan**, Conference Director  
Maui Economic Development Board  
1305 North Holopono Street, Suite 1, Kihei, HI 96753  
Office: 808-875-2318  
Email: [sandy@medb.org](mailto:sandy@medb.org)  
Website: [www.medb.org](http://www.medb.org)

## 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.

## 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.

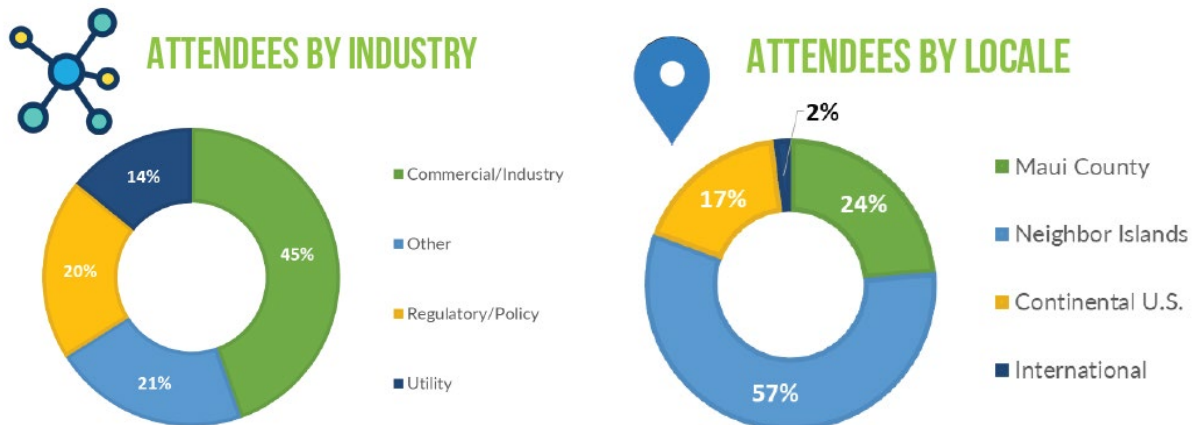
The first Energy Conference on Maui was held in 2014 to explore the challenges and opportunities in our nation’s transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Maui is a locus for major energy initiatives. The island has attracted leading national and international energy players and leads the nation 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 4/6/24*

#### **Champion**

Ulupono Initiative

#### **Advocate**

Aukahi Energy  
Burns & McDonnell  
Hawaii Energy  
Hawaiian Electric

Island Energy Services  
Par Hawaii  
TerraForm Power

#### **Supporter**

AES  
Generac Power Systems  
Hawaii Gas  
JM Distributed Solutions  
Jurchen Technology

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative  
Novatech Automation  
Pacific Panel Cleaners  
Puno Geothermal Ventures  
Trio Energy Alliance

#### **EXHIBITORS**

AES  
Burns & McDonnell  
Generac Power Systems  
Island Energy Services  
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  
Ulupono 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.

# # #

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

Contact: Annette Lynch, Director of Communications, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.  
Ph: 808-270-6811 / Email: [annette@medb.org](mailto:annette@medb.org)

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

###

**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*.