

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 two Deep Dive sessions 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 grid independence. Discussions will also tackle energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, job creation, training, and more.

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

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**
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | Founders Courtyard

8:00 **CULTURAL OPENING | Castle Theater**

E KOMO MAI (WELCOME)

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

WELCOME BY MAUI COUNTY MAYOR RICHARD BISSEN

8:30

TALKING GREEN ENERGY WITH GOVERNOR JOSH GREEN

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



The Honorable Governor Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

9:15

COFFEE BREAK AND EXHIBIT SESSION | Exhibit Hall
RELAX & RECHARGE AT THE ULUPONO INITIATIVE CHARGING LOUNGE
Castle Lobby

9:45

COMPETING PRIORITIES

Hawaii has a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard; ambitious climate goals from Act 238; and an affordability problem. How should we prioritize these goals?

Moderated by:

Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO)

Panelists:

The Honorable Governor Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawaii

Shelee Kimura, President & CEO, Hawaiian Electric

10:30

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

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 Faruqi**, Economist-at-Large, **Jeremy Kwock**, Manager of Pricing, Hawaiian Electric and **Jennifer Potter**, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI)

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

12:00 PM NETWORKING LUNCH | Founders Courtyard EXHIBIT SESSION AND DESSERT | 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, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Panelists:

Leilani Chow, Sust'āinable Molokai

Joe Kent, Executive Vice President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Peck, President, Holu Hou Energy

1:30 DEEP DIVE – SUSTAINABLE FINANCING (SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

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

Discussion Facilitated by **Noel Morin**, Hawaii Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners LLC

2:30 UTILITY SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Too many RFP awards are not being turned into projects. Is there a way to speed things up? Can we really hit the RPS targets? Comparing Hawaiian Electric and KIUC procurement efforts.

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 | Exhibit Hall

4:00 FEATURED PRESENTATION | HOW ENERGY CAN SUPPORT DHHL'S MISSION

Makai Freitas, Commissioner, Department of Hawaiian Homelands

4:15 UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF GRID SERVICES AND VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS (VPPS) (60 min)

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

5:15-6:30 PM NETWORKING RECEPTION | Exhibit Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 22

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

8:00 OUTCOMES OF DEEP DIVE SESSIONS

Dr. Ahmad Faruqui, Economist-at-Large
Jennifer Potter, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI)

Noel Morin, Hawaii Infrastructure Partner, Sustainability Partners LLC

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

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

**9:30 COFFEE BREAK AND EXHIBIT SESSION | Exhibit Hall
RELAX & RECHARGE AT THE ULUPONO INITIATIVE CHARGING LOUNGE
Castle Lobby**

10:00 FEATURED TALK/CASE STUDY

**10:15 UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON DC ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
RELATED TO ENERGY**

**11:15 NETWORKING LUNCH | Founders Courtyard
EXHIBIT SESSION AND DESSERT | Exhibit Hall**

12:45 PM ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With average monthly electricity use already lower than most States, what are the best remaining areas to reduce electricity use?

Moderated by:

Caroline Carl, Executive Director, Hawaii Energy

Panelist:

Brian Kealoha, Chief Growth and Impact Officer, VEIC

1:45 **FEATURED TALK/CASE STUDY**

2:00 **JOB CREATION AND TRAINING**

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 (IBEW) Local 1186

Panelists:

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

3:00 **AFTERNOON BREAK**

3:30 **UPDATES FROM THE HAWAII LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND PUC**

Come for the latest news from the Hawaii legislature and Hawaii PUC

4:30 **CLOSING**

4:45 - **WOMEN IN RENEWABLE ENERGY (WIRE) PAU HANA | Founders Courtyard**

6:00 PM *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 (HIEDB); and President Hawaii Leeward Planning

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

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

Doug McLeod | Member, DKK Energy Services, LLC

Robert “Rocky” Mould | Executive Director, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Maria Tome | Chief Research Analyst, Division of Consumer Advocacy

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