

Briefings and Dialogue:

Hawaii Energy Building Codes & Fuel Security and The Biofuels Transition

- Friday, October 16, 2009 at 10am - Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Briefing:

**Hawai'i's Energy Codes Leapfrog Over Mainland Codes by Howard Wiig,
DBEDT Energy Office**

- Legislature passed Act 107 (2007) that created a suite of statewide building codes, including energy
- IECC mandates that code shall be updated every three years – 2009 codes are in process
- Responses to follow-up questions
 - If all buildings in Hawai'i were brought up to 2009 code, we could easily see a 30% increase in energy efficiency
 - Extensive retrofits on homes typically cost \$3,000 to \$4,000
 - Realtors can create demand for energy efficient homes – Honolulu Board of Realtors has a energy working group and “green” certification.
 - Incentives for retrofitting could be funded with ARRA funding through the Hawai'i Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP)
 - A next step could be to require home sellers to provide an energy report
 - Enforcing the statewide building codes does not require additional personnel. Energy codes are typically enforced through a sign-off by the project's architect or engineer. Residences are required to display a certificate from the contractor.
 - Adopting the IECC 2006 regulations statewide sets a minimum for the counties.
 - All counties will adopt the 2006 regulations; Kaua'i is adopting the 2009 regulations
 - There has been work to localize the code and eliminate inapplicable codes
 - Codes apply to new and renovated buildings; all equipment and products must be certified by a third party

Briefing:

Fuel Security & The Biofuels Transition

1. Tesoro Hawai'i Presentation by Rick Weyen, VP of Renewable Energy, Tesoro Corporation

- Interested in advanced technology to utilize existing refineries and create products that are compatible with current infrastructure
 - Pyrolysis is the favored conversion technology – products are easiest to input into the refinery, but it is not currently being used to produce transportation fuels
- Refinery needs the volume of feedstock that fits local production – 5 MW

2. The Gas Company Presentation by Jeffrey Kissel, President & CEO, The Gas Company

- Animal fat is a potential feedstock for syngas production
- Bringing the fat to O'ahu for processing could provide an incentive to rebuild slaughterhouses
- There will not be a competition with smaller refineries that utilize restaurant grease because TGC requires cleaner feedstock.
 - Landfill gas is another potential feedstock. Processing facilities are located 8 miles away from the landfill; but a pipeline could be built or H-Power could be expanded to use residual MSW gas
 - Gas was not being counted in meeting the HCEI goals until recently – the Consumer Advocate submitted a docket to the PUC to include gas in the IRP.