

13th Annual Legislative Briefing

“Finding Continuity:
Whatever Happened To...?”

Thursday, January 12, 2017
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Auditorium



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA



Speakers



Jay Fidell came to Hawai'i in 1965 as a Coast Guard lawyer. He was a founder of the firm now known as Bendet Fidell Sugimura and practiced business law there until 2012, when he retired after 40 years of practice. Jay has an abiding interest in technology, and founded ThinkTech Hawai'i, a 501(c)(3) Hawai'i nonprofit, in 2000. He has served as a director of HTDC, NELHA, HSDC, HSTC, HVCA and the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum. From its studio at Pioneer Plaza, ThinkTech currently broadcasts and uploads 30 live video talk shows each week on the internet, including four on energy.



Carl Freedman is the facilitator for the HEPF Energy Metrics Project. Mr. Freedman is also the owner and principal of Haiku Design and Analysis, a Maui-based consulting firm specializing in Public Utility Regulatory Affairs. He has worked on matters before the Hawai'i PUC for over twenty-five years.



Tom Gorak was sworn in as an interim Commissioner of the PUC in July, 2016. He formerly served as the PUC's chief counsel (since September 2013), providing legal advice and recommendations on pending dockets, drafting policy statements and orders, and managing its attorneys. During his 37 years in public and private law practice, he has focused on state and federal public utility regulation. He is nationally recognized for his expertise concerning the regulated utility industry; has lectured extensively and published on public utility issues; has taught basic and advanced regulatory courses for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).



James "Jay" Griffin joined the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) faculty in 2009, working on several research projects analyzing renewable grid integration challenges in Hawai'i. Starting in 2012, Jay took a leave of absence from HNEI to serve as the Chief of Policy and Research at the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He led the PUC's team of researchers and economists assisting Commission decision-making with energy policy research and analysis. In July, he returned to his faculty position to lead research initiatives to support the state's clean energy goals, and develop a technology testing and demonstration program for emerging distributed energy resource technologies.



Mike Hamnett is Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum, and also serves as a Researcher for the University of Hawai'i Social Science Research Institute, Director of the Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative Research Program, and Chair of the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Forum. He has over 36 years of policy research and planning experience focusing primarily on natural resource management, climate variability and change, disaster management and energy. He received his MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1977.



Chris Lee has served as Representative for Kailua and Waimanalo in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives since 2008. Representative Lee currently serves as Chair of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and also serves on the Judiciary (JUD) and Water and Land (WAL) committees. He grew up in Kailua, attended 'Iolani School, and is a graduate of Oregon State University.



Jeff Mikulina is the executive director of the Blue Planet Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to clear the path for 100% clean energy in Hawai'i and beyond. Through collaboration and advocacy, Blue Planet champions scalable policies and programs to transform Hawai'i's energy systems to clean, renewable energy solutions. Jeff received a Master's of Science degree in engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying decision theory.



Colin Moore is an associate professor of political science and the director of the Public Policy Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Prior to joining the faculty at UH, he was a research fellow at Yale University's Center for the Study of American Politics and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University.



Sharon Moriwaki is Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum and specialist at the Public Policy Center, UHM College of Social Sciences. Since 2006, she has been developing interdisciplinary and collaborative projects to address public policy issues on affordable energy, sustainability, energy, and community development studies. She received her BA, MA and PhD in Sociology from the University of Southern California and her JD from Loyola Law School.



Stanley Osserman, Director of the Hawai'i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies, has been involved with Hawai'i's energy community, beginning with coordinating the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative with the U.S. Pacific Command. Stanley leverages his extensive military experience in managing a \$22 million portfolio of renewable energy and alternative fuel transportation projects for the U.S. Air Force Research Lab at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The 2015 Legislature designated him the "Hydrogen Implementation Coordinator" for the State. He hosts a ThinkTech show on Fridays at noon.



Scott Turn is a Researcher on the faculty of the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute at the University of Hawai'i. Over the past 20 years, his research has focused on biomass resources in Hawai'i and their utilization. This work has been supported by both the public and private sectors. Research interests include biomass resource assessment, biomass feedstock processing and characterization, thermochemical conversion, hot gas cleaning, fuel reforming, and biofuel properties. In 2009, he headed the team that developed the bioenergy master plan for the State of Hawai'i.



Keynote Speaker



Gavin Bade
Editor, *Utility Dive*

Gavin Bade has been the editor of *Utility Dive* since 2014, growing the upstart publication into one of the leading news sources for the U.S. power sector. Through daily reporting and analysis, Bade and the *Utility Dive* team provide actionable information on utility business practices and policies across the nation, facilitating the shift to a cleaner, lower-cost electricity system. Prior to his role at UD, Bade worked for a number of publishers including NPR, *The American Prospect*, and WGUV Radio, as well as editing Georgetown University's alternative weekly, *the Voice*.

Agenda

1:30 p.m. OPENING

- Call to Order—Convener & Moderator—**Jay Fidell**, *ThinkTech Hawai'i (TTH)*
- Welcome from the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum
Sharon Moriwaki, *Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum*
- Report from the Legislature
Chris Lee, *House Committee on Energy and Energy Protection*
- Clean Energy Performance Report; and HEPF Initiatives on Electrical Sector Leadership & Roles and Transportation Targets
Carl Freedman, *Haiku Design and Analysis*
- Report from the Public Utilities Commission
Tom Gorak, *Public Utilities Commission*

2:15 p.m. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

What's Happening on the National Scene & What Does It Mean for Hawai'i?—"The Worst of Times? Climate Action in the Age of Trump"
Gavin Bade, *Utility Dive*

2:35 p.m. PANEL PRESENTATION

Finding Continuity: Whatever Happened To...? and What's Next For...?
Moderator—**Mike Hamnett**, *Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum*

- Community-based Renewable Energy Program—**Jeff Mikulina**, *Blue Planet Foundation*
- On-Bill Financing—**Jay Griffin**, *Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI)*
- Interisland Electric Transmission Cable—**Jay Griffin**, *HNEI*
- Hydrogen Economy Plan—**Stan Osserman**, *Hawai'i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies/DBEDT*
- Bioenergy Master Plan—**Scott Turn**, *Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute*
- Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS)—**Jeff Mikulina**, *Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority & Blue Planet Foundation*
- Discussion and Q&A

3:45 p.m. CLOSING PRESENTATION

Beyond the Sound Bite: Legislation that Matters
Colin Moore, *UH Social Science Public Policy Center*

3:55 p.m. FINAL WORDS—Jay Fidell, TTH

4:00 p.m. PAU

Whatever Happened To...?

For more than a decade, the Legislature has passed many laws to outline, set and implement Hawai'i's clean energy policies. With rapidly advancing clean energy technologies and systems, new investments must be made to our aging energy infrastructure, requiring critical and costly decisions. In finding solutions and staying on course to meet our clean energy goals, we need to meet three major challenges: (1) affordable, accessible, and equitable energy for all Hawai'i residents and businesses; (2) increasing and managing intermittent renewable energy sources (e.g. solar and wind) on the grid; and (3) clean transportation options.

This briefing asks “Whatever happened to (the following policies)....?” and “What’s next for...?” to spur discussion and groundwork for legislation in the upcoming session.



Community-based Renewable Energy Program -- Act 100 (2015) enables electric utility customers to obtain the benefits of renewable energy generation through investing, via a tariff system, in a community-based renewable energy (primarily PV systems) program.



On-bill Financing (OBF) -- Act 204 (2011) directed the PUC to investigate the viability of an OBF program to enable utility customers who are renters or who lack resources to obtain renewable energy and energy efficiency devices through an option to finance these devices through payments on their utility bill.



Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) -- Act 211 (2013) established a regulatory financing program authorizing the PUC and the DBEDT to acquire and provide alternative low-cost financing for clean energy infrastructure installations accessible and affordable for Hawai'i's consumers.



Interisland Electric Transmission Cable Systems -- Act 165 (2012) established a regulatory structure under which interisland undersea transmission cables could be developed, financed, and constructed cost-effectively to connect island utility systems, with PUC authorized to develop and implement the certification process for the cable system.



Hydrogen Economy Plan -- Act 240 (2006) established a Hawai'i renewable hydrogen program and hydrogen investment capital special fund.



Bioenergy Master Plan -- Act 253 (2007) required DBEDT to prepare a bioenergy masterplan to develop a Hawai'i renewable biofuels program to manage the State's transition to energy self-sufficiency based in part on biofuels for power generation and transportation.

What's Happening with...?

Legislative policies have been and continue to be implemented. The status of these will be covered in the “Clean Energy Performance Report.”



State Support for Achieving Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) -- Act 95 (2004) was Hawai‘i’s first RPS statute requiring electric utilities to meet a 15 percent target for 2015 and 20 percent for 2020, with additional modifications made in 2006 via SB 3185 (Act 162, SLH 2006). The Hawai‘i Clean Energy Initiative goals of 2008 were codified into law in 2009 by HB 1464 setting a 40 percent RPS by 2030. With passage of Act 97 (2015), Hawai‘i became the first and only state to pass a 100% RPS law (by 2045). Act 97 (HB 623) also increased the 2020 RPS target from 25 percent to 30 percent.



Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) -- Act 155 (2009) established the statutory goal of reducing electricity use by 30%, or 4,300 gigawatt-hours (GWh), by 2030. In 2015, the EEPS was separated from the RPS to become a stand-alone policy under which energy efficiency measures and displacement or offset technologies would no longer be counted toward fulfilling the state’s RPS.



Electric Vehicles -- Act 164 (2015) established a working group within DBEDT to address and report findings and recommendations on the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and examine issues regarding requests at apartments, condominiums, cooperative housing corporations, and planned community associations.



Barrel Tax -- Act 73 (2010) established the environmental response, energy and food security tax for the purpose of creating an energy independent and agriculturally sustainable future for Hawai‘i. Funds were to be used to invest in the necessary infrastructure, incentivize and guide private action and advance and accelerate energy and food security initiatives. Specifically, the purpose was to: 1) promote economic development for local food and energy businesses by providing necessary funding, guidance, and infrastructure. 2) ensure Hawai‘i is energy and food self-sufficient and sustainable to the maximum extent feasible; 3) help Hawai‘i’s natural resources and population adapt and be resilient to the inevitable challenges brought on by climate change caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels; 4) create a Hawai‘i economic development task force to accelerate and support public and private efforts to make Hawai‘i energy- and food-self-sufficient, consistent with the “Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan,” “the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative,” and other government and community planning efforts, etc. 5) establish an agricultural development and food security special fund to fund activities intended to increase agricultural production or processing that may lead to reduced importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the state; and 6) establish a clean energy initiative to manage the state’s transition to a clean energy economy. Subsequently, Act 185 (2015) made the tax permanent.

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum Organization Members

Building Industry Association of Hawai'i
Chevron
City and County of Honolulu
Energy Industries Holdings
Haiku Design & Analysis
Hawaiian Electric Companies
Hawai'i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies/DBEDT
Hawai'i Consumer Advocate/DCCA
Hawai'i County
Hawai'i Energy
Hawai'i Gas
Hawai'i Government Employees Association
Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs
Hawai'i Public Policy Advocates
Hawai'i Renewable Energy Alliance
Hawai'i Solar Energy Association
Hawai'i Department of Transportation
Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission
Hawai'i State Energy Office/DBEDT
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Senate

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1260
Kaua'i County
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
Kohala Center
Maui County
Office of U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
Office of U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
Office of U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Office of U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa
Par Hawai'i, Inc.
SunPower Systems Corporation
Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
ThinkTech Hawai'i
UH Applied Research Laboratory
UH Center for Smart Building & Community Design
UH Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute
UH Renewable Energy & Island Sustainability/College of Engineering
UH Social Sciences Public Policy Center/College of Social Sciences
Ulupono Initiative
U.S. Defense Logistics Energy Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development

Visit our Website

www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu

for reports & information, including:

- Hawaii Clean Energy Status Reports
- Renewable Energy Cost-Benefit Study
- Materials from the Legislative Briefing

Tune in to HEPF/ThinkTech Hawai'i's Weekly Energy Show!

visit www.thinktechhawaii.com

4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. every Wednesday

Mark Your Calendars!

This Year's Hawai'i Clean Energy Day will be in AUGUST 2017

