



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA

Report On

Cultural Issues

Prepared by

**Hawai'i Energy Policy Project
Cultural Issues Working Group**

for the Hawaii Energy Policy Project University of Hawai'i at Manoa
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HAWAII ENERGY POLICY PROJECT CULTURAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP

Introduction

The Cultural Issues Working Group (CIWG) was formed to provide input into the process of determining a preferred energy future for Hawai`i. It is an outgrowth of work being performed by the University of Hawai`i, under a grant from the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to facilitate the development of an energy vision for the year 2030 and to formulate a strategy for its implementation. Current work by the University is designed to lead up to the convening of a major energy visioning conference in December 2003.

CIWG is presently loosely comprised of representatives from the Hawaiian Services Institutions and Agencies (HSIA), and began discussions relating to this project on July 1, 2003. After two meetings, participating members of CIWG felt the issue of energy development in Hawai`i was so critical that Native Hawaiians should be considered as major stakeholders and empowered to play a significant role in influencing decisions relating to Hawaii's energy future. As such, CIWG decided it needed to draft a Statement of Purpose and Call to Action to begin the process of empowering Native Hawaiians to become involved in the visioning and decision making process.

Statement of Purpose

In general, CIWG believes that any energy vision and policy for Hawai`i's future must be framed and founded on what is "pono" (right) for Hawaii and its people. It should also be pono for the world, because more than ever, the world has become interconnected and in essence, an island

society. In the spirit of Aloha and ho`olauna (sharing) and as a ho`okupu (offering to honor) our akua and aumakua, we offer as a framework for discussion and decision-making what Native Hawaiians referred to as, “Piko Ekolu,” the three Piko:

1. Piko Po`o – The cultural values learned from our ancestors, including konohiki (stewardship), malama (care for), and kuleana (responsibility). It also refers to the lessons learned relating to how our ancestors managed to sustain their resources and thrive as a people through the use of practices such as ahupua`a (mountain to sea) management and the kapu system (traditional regulatory system used by our ancestors to conserve and sustain resources).
2. Piko Opu – The lessons being learned by today’s generation and how it helps us make the transition to the future.
3. Piko Ma`i – Future generations need to thrive as well.

Call to Action

With Piko Ekolu as a guide, CIWG supports the gathering of input from the broader Hawaiian community and the inclusion of a diversity of opinions.

It recommends a call to action that includes the following goal, objectives, and specific activities:

1. Goal – Native Hawaiians empowered to become involved in the decision-making process of policies regarding energy development in Hawaii.
2. Objectives
 - a. Gather input from Hawaiian communities.
 - b. Develop educational/informational materials on different types of energy resources and development.
 - c. Educate/inform general public regarding cultural framework around which any energy policy is formulated.
 - d. Report recommendations (majority and minority reports) to Hawai`i Energy Policy Forum.

3. Some Specific Activities
 - a. Engage HSIA network to schedule and coordinate community meetings and forums.
 - b. Identify and use expertise of Hawaiian kupuna who have knowledge and expertise in the fields of science and engineering, or who may have worked in the energy/utilities industry.
 - c. Bring in research and development expertise from sources such as national laboratories.
 - d. Use Bishop Museum to host series of Public Understanding of Research Seminars.
 - e. Use of a survey instrument.
 - f. Use of major Hawaiian gatherings such as the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement's Second Annual Native Hawaiian Conference, Hawaiian Civic Club Annual Meeting, etc.
 - g. Develop CIWG Website.
 - h. Tours of alternative energy sites.
 - i. Public service announcements/media advertising.
 - j. Short video regarding the importance of developing alternative, renewable energy resources.
 - k. School outreach.
 - l. Secure funding from various sources to support the above activities.

Appendix: Cultural Issues Working Group Members

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Queen Emma Foundation

Lynette Cruz
Ahupua'a Action Alliance

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Bishop Museum

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