

1. Expand Renewable Energy Opportunities

- Focus of the Renewable Energy Working Group

Actions to be taken:

1. Work with the state Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), the utilities, industry and others to monitor the rate of “take up” by the market to: determine how well existing policies and incentives are working; submit periodic progress reports; identify barriers to effective implementation of programs and their successes and/or failures.
2. Monitor and report on the energy savings results of the Department of Education (DOE) solar pilot project, and if determined effective, expand to other schools.
3. Identify and report on promising renewable energy technologies (such as solar thermal electric, sea water air conditioning (SWAC), solar air conditioning and wave energy). Recommendations will be made to the Forum regarding potential state energy initiatives and appropriate legislative or regulatory actions.
4. Explore wind/commercial solar/biomass/geothermal/hydro/wave Energy Development Zones
5. Evaluate the need for incentives to support statewide waste-to-energy projects.
6. Improve Renewable Portfolio Standards:
 1. Review and amend definition of “renewable energy” given the transfer of energy efficiency and other measures to the Public Benefit Funds Administrator. Investigate the establishment of a separate energy efficiency portfolio standard
 2. Amend the language regarding utility profitability
7. Expand and enhance Net Metering
8. Encourage renewable distributed generation

Actions taken:

1. Net Metering was expanded with the Commission's Decision and Order No. 24089 on Docket No. 2006-0084. The customer-generator and system limits were increased to 100 kW and 1% for the HECO Companies, and to 50 kW and 1% for KIUC. The Commission's D&O also provided a process for consideration of additional modifications to the law without the need for a hearing or legislative action.
2. Briefed legislature on renewable energy working group progress (annually since 2006)
3. Provided testimony which aided in the adoption of renewable energy related legislation in 2007, including:
 1. HCR 280/HR 221, requesting DBEDT to conduct a feasibility study of a one-stop permit shop for renewable energy projects
 2. Act 205 (SB 987), amending the definition of "renewable energy producer" to include producers of thermal energy from renewable energy resources for purposes of leasing public land; establishing as policy that state and county governments provide priority handling and processing of all state and county permits required for renewable energy projects
 3. Act 165 (HB 870), allowing use of \$20 million of special purpose revenue bonds (SPRBs) for Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC
 4. Act 229 (HB 334), allowing use of \$10 million of SPRBs for Sopogy (concentrating solar project at NELHA)
4. Provided testimony for legislation in 2008 Legislature, which resulted in:
 1. Act 31(HB2502), making solar energy facilities a permitted use in the agricultural district on class D or E land
 2. Act 208 (HB2505), establishing a temporary full-time renewable energy facilitator position