

9. Support Sustainable Development and Use of Biofuels

- Focus of the Renewable Energy Working Group

Actions to be taken:

1. Support use of biodiesel derived locally
2. Study and provide recommendations for possible paths for expansion of statewide ethanol and biodiesel production, including the long range implications and impacts of increased use
3. Encourage public procurement of biofuels for government vehicles
4. Adopt renewables fuels standard
5. Prepare a white paper on “Biofuels for Hawaii” addressing the use of biofuels for electricity and transportation needs.
6. Support development of strong biofuels production and use in the state

Actions taken:

1. Assessed biofuel industry development in response to HCR 195, which resulted in a report to the Legislature (“Biomass and Biofuels to Power Study”) (2007)
2. Supported adoption of Act 159 (SB 1943), which adds biofuel processing facilities to the list of permitted uses in an agricultural district; establishes an energy feedstock program (2007)
3. Supported funding and staffing for DBEDT to develop the Hawaii Bioenergy Master Plan (2007 and 2008)
4. Convened public briefing on “Hawaii’s Pathway to Energy Independence” by Congressman Collin Peterson, Chair of US House Committee on Agriculture, which resulted in inclusion of funding for the Pacific Insular Sun Grant Center in the recently reauthorized 2008 Farm Bill (2007).
5. Convened public briefing on Hawaii’s biofuel research, titled “Hawaii’s Energy Future: What Will it Look Like?” (2008)