



July 2016

Capitol Connection with Gov. David Ige is a regular e-newsletter that provides you with updates from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. As the governor's office works to become paperless, the newsletter will be available on-line and via subscription. Check out the governor's website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe to this newsletter. Also, follow the governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and check www.facebook.com/GovernorIge for daily activities.

From the Governor: Leading the way in clean energy

In 2015, Governor Ige signed into law what has been called the nation's most aggressive clean energy goal: **to generate 100 percent of electricity sales from renewable resources by 2045**. This new law marks a turning point for the islands in moving from the most oil-dependent state in the country to one of the greenest.

Q. Why is the goal of 100 percent clean energy for electricity by 2045 so important to the state?

A. Hawai'i spends roughly \$5 billion a year to buy foreign oil to support our energy needs. Instead of sending money out-of-state, we can invest in developing our own indigenous, renewable energy resources — solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, wave, waste-to-energy, and hydroelectric. This will keep more money at home to improve our economy, environment and energy security and establish the islands as a leader in conservation and fighting global warming.

Q. In practical terms, what will it take to reach this goal — and what does it mean for consumers in the years ahead?

A. We're combining energy efficiency measures with new technology that can deliver electricity at costs below imported fossil fuels. It's up to each island community to decide what new technology they can support at utility scale. The biggest challenge for achieving 100 percent is energy storage so electricity can be available when we need it, and I'm confident the technology can be developed.



Gov. Ige and Mayor Bernard Carvalho (center) with Green Energy team members (l. to r.) Abraham Costa, Michael Mann and Eric Knutzen at one of the first biomass-to-energy plants in the country, part of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative.

Q. What progress have we made, and are we attracting international investment?

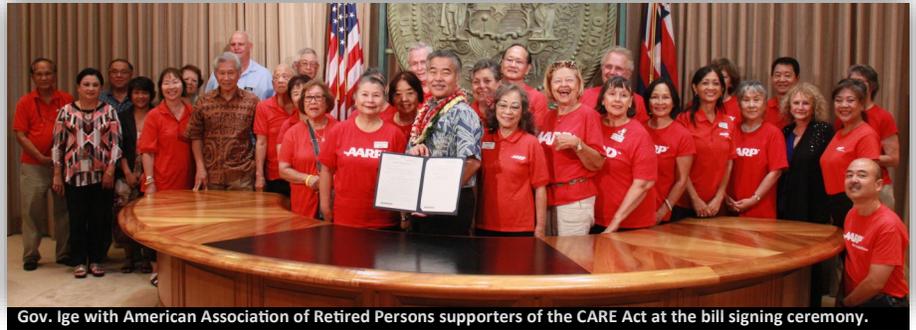
A. Currently, we have renewable energy projects on every island with the potential to add more. There's huge interest from other countries, such as Japan, Korea and China, in investing and learning with us. Hitachi, for example, is a partner on Maui in their smart grid research and development. The company is also interested in battery storage, photovoltaics and wind energy.

Q. How do we integrate these different technologies and what would the utility of the future look like?

A. The challenge and the opportunity in 100 percent clean energy is that the business model has to be different. The old model is based on the utility doing everything from generation and distribution to storage. The 21st century model is more customer-centered, with distributed local solutions. No matter who owns our utility company, the energy vision for Hawai'i is clear. We need to create a process to determine what works best for the utility, local consumers, and the state's clean energy goals. (At press time, the Public Utilities Commission hadn't announced its decision on a proposed merger of Hawaiian Electric Industries and NextEra Energy Inc.)

Governor signs bills for job support, health care and more

At press time, Governor Ige had signed more than 120 bills into law from the 2016 Legislature, with a final approval or veto deadline of July 12. The bills ranged from providing help for Maui residents who have lost their jobs in recent months (HB 2722, HB 2605) to requiring hospitals to explain medical tasks for family caregivers once patients are discharged (HB 2252 or the CARE Act).



Gov. Ige with American Association of Retired Persons supporters of the CARE Act at the bill signing ceremony.

The governor also signed SB 2954 (Act 108), making Hawai'i the first state in the nation to authorize enrollment of firearms owners in a central information system. Other bills signed into law included those relating to violators of laws involving aquatic resources and funds for restoration projects on Kaho'olawe. For more details, go to "Bills signed or vetoed" at governor.hawaii.gov.

State honors 'green biz' winners

The state recently honored 16 businesses and five events for their efforts to conserve energy, protect the environment and help Hawai'i meet its clean energy goals. "These businesses are demonstrating that you can improve your bottom line while supporting the transformation to a more sustainable Hawai'i," Governor Ige said.

The awardees, recognized during the 2016 Hawai'i Green Business Program ceremony, implemented a variety of innovative measures — from installing high-efficiency lighting to using rain catchment systems to reduce impact on the environment. They included hotels, small businesses and events such as the 2016 Hawai'i Tourism Conference and the Honolulu Museum of Art's "Plastic Fantastic?" exhibition. See <http://energy.hawaii.gov/green-business-program> for details.



New state trails website debuts

Hikers can now find valuable information about sanctioned trails in Hawai'i, thanks to a revamped mobile, user-friendly website at hawaiitrails.org. Managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the site provides GPS trailhead directions, length of the trail, activities, photos and hazards.

The site was launched by the Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access program to offer hikers accurate, up-to-date information rather than relying on random posts on the internet. Some trails are not included on the site because they may be closed or are dangerous.

ESSA Summit draws huge response; town meetings set on several islands

At last count, more than 900 people have registered for the free public Hawai'i Education Summit Saturday, July 9 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

Among those participating in the summit will be Ken Kay, CEO of EdLeader21; Lee Posey, federal affairs counsel with the National Conference of State Legislatures; Stephen Parker of the National Governors Association; and Peter Oppenheim and Lindsay Fryer, who helped write the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The event, sponsored by the governor's ESSA team, is a chance for the community to:

- Learn about the new opportunities ESSA provides and best practices from inspiring national and local education leaders
- Discuss key issues for a blueprint to improve public education in Hawai'i
- Collaborate on innovative possibilities for a 21st century, student-centered education system

"We're overwhelmed by the positive response," said ESSA team leader Darrel Galera. "This will be one of the biggest opportunities we'll have to talk about improving public education for the future of our state."

Galera said the ESSA team will discuss recommendations from the summit in a series of evening town hall meetings starting July 27 across the islands as well as ongoing discussions with the Hawai'i Department of Education, which is reviewing its 2011-2018 strategic plan. For more details, go to the ESSA section at governor.hawaii.gov.



Ken Kay



Lee Posey



Stephen Parker

Hawai'i's clean energy future

Electricity. We take it for granted until the power goes out. But Governor Ige and others have a bigger vision: They say living in an island community means Hawai'i can be a leader in renewable energy for the state, the nation and the world — with all of us benefiting from this new technology in our daily lives.

From biomass and solar to wind, wave, geothermal and hydroelectric, the islands offer a natural test bed of possibilities to help the state reach its goal of 100 percent clean energy electrical generation by 2045. To reach that goal, a whole energy ecosystem is being developed in the islands involving utilities, researchers, policy-makers, state, county, and federal agencies, investors and entrepreneurs who want to contribute to a clean energy future. (For a state map of 60 renewable projects, go to <http://1.usa.gov/28QdBHz>.)

As an electrical engineer who understands the issues and what's at stake, the governor has made his vision clear. "Part of being governor is to see the opportunities and challenges," he said in an earlier interview. "We need to set goals that are aspirational, but not so far out of reach that the goals become useless."

He cites the \$5 billion the state has been spending yearly on imported fossil fuel — funds that could help our community through clean energy's "triple bottom line" of more local jobs, lower consumer costs and environmental benefits. He's also aware of the skeptics and the technological hurdles that need to be overcome to reach the state's clean energy goals.

But he and others are quick to point out the advances being made right here in Hawai'i that are paving the way to the future. Mark Glick heads the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO), charged with driving the state's clean energy agenda through policies, programs and public-private partnerships.

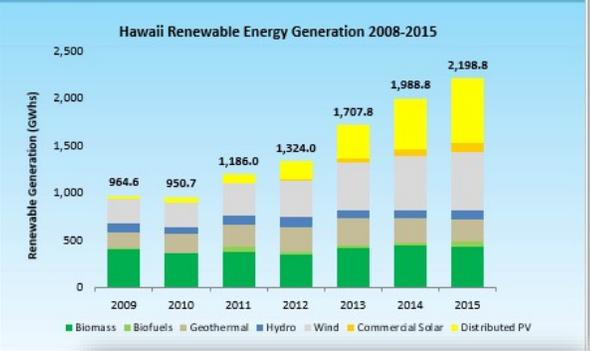
His office, under the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, coordinates efforts on everything from clean transportation and encouraging use of electric cars to recognizing "green" businesses and connecting consumers, developers and investors with resources for clean energy projects and improvements.

HSEO also is launching what Glick calls "a new method of planning under the Ige administration," bringing together progressive planners and Hawaiian Electric (HECO) engineers early in the process to align utility planning with state clean energy policy. "They're working as a team to figure out ways to ramp up renewables without overbuilding or creating too much cost for the ratepayer," said Glick. "The federal Department of Energy is watching this process and believes it could be a model for the nation."

New test-bed ventures are under way on nearly every island as well as commercial, utility-scale operations such as solar and windfarms, biomass and hydroelectric plants and geothermal. Also, HECO has announced plans to roll out "smart grid" technology on O'ahu, Hawai'i Island, and in Maui county to help customers control their electric bills while the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative plans to use similar smart metering for energy efficiency.

DBEDT director Luis Salaveria underscored the importance of Hawai'i leveraging all these areas in its role as an energy innovation leader. "We're excited to bring together some of the brightest minds in clean energy to find sustainable solutions for the future."

Hawaii renewable energy generation by source



TEAMWORK: DBEDT director Luis Salaveria, Asst. Navy Secretary Dennis McGinn, Gov. Ige and energy director Mark Glick after signing a historic agreement to advance clean energy.

"Part of being governor is to see the opportunities and challenges."

— Governor David Y. Ige



People in the News

Hawai'i's Turnaround Arts students perform at White House

Imagine getting to jam with Jack Johnson, Jake Shimabukuro or Paula Fuga, then taking your skills to the White House. That's what happened to a group of Hawai'i kids who were part of a Turnaround Arts talent showcase in May, hosted by first lady Michelle Obama.

Turnaround Arts came to three Hawai'i schools — Kalihi Kai, Waianae Elementary and Kamaile Academy charter school — last fall as part of a nationwide program to prove the power of the arts to motivate students. The White House initiative pairs world-famous artist mentors with schools as a way to close achievement gaps and provide more access to arts education.

In Hawai'i, the mentors worked directly with students and teachers to use the arts as a learning tool. The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) encourages including the arts as part of a "well-rounded" education. The program is supported locally by foundation grants and agency funding in a public-private partnership. For more details and an inspiring video that includes Hawai'i's students and mentors, go to turnaroundarts.pcah.gov.



Jack Johnson and Paula Fuga mentored local students as part of Turnaround Arts.

A mile-long lei for Orlando

Governor Ige joined hundreds of volunteers on Maui last month to weave a mile-long "Lei of Aloha for Orlando" after the deadly June 12 shooting at Pulse nightclub in which at least 49 people were killed and 53 people were injured.

One organizer told NBC News, "Bullets killed those 49 people, (but) love is our weapon that you can never kill." A Maui delegation has delivered the lei to Florida.



(above) Volunteers take a break from lei weaving at Nalu's South Shore Grill in Kihei. Members of the LGBT community and many others spent four days on the project. (right) Governor Ige wrote a note to be included at the half-mile point.



Summer books from first lady and Scholastic

Children at two neighbor island schools took home new books to read this summer, thanks to first lady Dawn Amano-Ige, a Scholastic Reading Ambassador. One hundred books were donated to Maunaloa Elementary on Moloka'i and 400 to Na'alehu Elementary on Hawai'i Island.



Proud Moloka'i students Jonalei Kaina-Kahoalii Pohai Pelekai, and Kiliya Pule with their books.

Mrs. Ige joined other first ladies across the nation in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge to keep kids reading when they're not in school — especially those who might not have access to new, quality books.

"Reading is the foundation for success in life," said Mrs. Ige. "It helps students learn about the world and encourages creativity. It's also a way for families to spend time together without relying on technology."

The donation from Scholastic supports the summer challenge, in which students keep track of their reading minutes and bring in their logs at the end of summer. (Go to scholastic.com/summer to record minutes for Hawai'i.) Maunaloa librarian Kalani Pagan said the students were looking forward to the challenge and were very grateful for the books.

State's 1st 'Code Challenge' for students

Save the date: High School and college students who want a chance to apply their coding skills to improve real-world government services can join the state's first "Code Challenge" Aug. 8 to Sept. 8.

"We're engaging local talent to identify innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to government issues," said Todd Nacapuy, the state's chief information officer. Awards and recognition will go to participants, with outstanding projects considered for implementation.

Specific challenge areas, rules and criteria will be announced at a kick-off event Aug. 8, with a time and location to be decided. For more information and updates, visit ets.hawaii.gov/CodeChallenge.

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