

# Kauai Economic Development Board (KEDB) Renewable Energy Committee (REC)

Date: April 1, 2009

## KEDB Renewable Energy Committee Attendees

### Stakeholders:

Alton Miyamoto, *First Wind*

Cheryl Fujii, *Kauai Community College*

Chipper Wichman, *National Tropical Botanical Garden*

Dave Kane, *Trex*

Eric Knutzen, *Green Energy Hawaii*

Glenn Sato, *County of Kauai*

Howard Greene, *Gay and Robinson*

Mike Tresler, *Grove Farm Co.*

Rohit Mehta, *Princeville Community Association*

Steve Rymsha, *Kauai Island Utility Cooperative*

Susan Tai, *Kauai Economic Development Board, Renewable Energy Committee*

Wayne Katayama, *Kauai Coffee Co.*

### SENTECH Hawai'i Team Members:

Diane Zachary, *Kauai Planning & Action Alliance*

Douglas Hinrichs, *SENTECH Hawai'i, LLC*

Jill Sims, *SENTECH Hawai'i, LLC*

Maurice Kaya, *Consultant*

Rayne Regush, *Kauai Planning & Action Alliance*

## Notes

### Process

- KEDB Renewable Energy Committee (REC) wants an opportunity for stakeholder feedback on draft plan prior to community rollout/feedback
- REC wants to see a summary document prior to final stakeholder meeting and also have a feedback route if people are not able to attend final meeting
- Other Energy Plans (for example, Hawaii County) have not been specific enough in that it didn't assign responsibility or timelines, it also lacked a roadmap, and cost estimates to get from Point A to B
- Process needs to raise awareness and build political will, developers will not come to Kauai if their projects risk being shut down at last minute due to permitting or legislative changes
- The energy needs of Kauai are growing, so not only do renewable energy projects need a lot of capital but additional firming capacity is needed; low cost of energy is important to KIUC and customers
- Kauai Energy Sustainability Plan must be synchronized with KIUC plan
- We shouldn't be planning for the future based on energy prices today - meaning that we are betting the future of the island on energy prices being predictable

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### **Baseline Data**

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Legislation is missing as a policy that influences developers; general public doesn't understand carbon lifecycle
- Need to baseline energy consumption over past 40 years
- Need to specify conventional storage versus emerging technology

### **Opportunities for Demand Reduction, EE**

- KESP scope is limited to ground transportation
- Smart growth principles need to reduce transportation and energy usage; we should challenge the assumption of economic/population growth requiring electricity demand growth, as well as the assumption of energy being low-cost
- Need more efficient home construction
- Examine changing paradigms, for example, visitors using transportation other than 100% rental cars
- A large impact can be made from commercial entities but it must be economically driven
- Efficiency needs a lot of near-term attention. Customer preferences can be driven through economic incentives and penalties, for example, time of day pricing.
- Residential side efficiency is essentially zero

### **Barriers to RE**

- The biggest barrier to technical and economic feasibility of projects is cost
- Lack of urgency in government
- Education and lack of awareness
- Water usage and rights; regulations around dams and reservoirs have stopped hydro projects
- Grid stability is a large barrier, possible solutions include integrating multiple renewables, partnering with KIUC and other developers, requiring firming capacity
- Access to funding and credit, business plans and financing must show a surety of return (volatile kW/hr pricing is having a negative impact); possible solutions include FITs, increasing margin, revolving loan, guaranteed loan, and outside investors
- Avian issues on Kauai are significant; must come to global agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on management issues (grow 2, kill 1); this process will cost a lot of money