

## Community Meeting

### Hanalei

Date: May 12, 2009

## Attendees

### Community:

Brad Parsons  
Chris Borton  
David Seielstad  
Friedemanne Bendy  
Jack Benzie  
Jennifer Luck  
John Moseley  
Ken Taylor  
Linda Welsh  
Paige Krest  
Sam Knepper  
West Marren

### SENTECH Hawai'i Team Members:

Diane Rosenkranz, *Kauai Planning & Action Alliance*  
Diane Zachary, *Kauai Planning & Action Alliance*  
Jill Sims, *SENTECH Hawai'i, LLC*  
Rayne Regush, *Kauai Planning & Action Alliance*

## Notes

### Energy Choices for Kauai

- County is meeting with KIUC- is SENTECH participating in these meetings?
- What is SENTECH and did they respond to an RFP from the County?
- How does what Kaua'i pays per kilowatt hour for energy compare nationally? (Jill - Much higher than national average)
- Is the HCEI going to help people on Lanai? (Jill-a wind and PV farm is currently being developed there.)

### Process

- In the stakeholder meeting with the KIUC board, was that the current or previous board? (Diane – current board)
- Were the other community meetings well attended? So this whole process is pretty much flying below the radar?
- Is there going to be consideration for changes to the draft plan? (Diane – yes, that is the purpose of the public input period.)
- When the plan is delivered to the County, in what way can this compel elected official to take action? How can the plan be implemented and imposed upon the County administration? (Jill – that is being considered right now.)
- Will SENTECH intervene in PUC rate case?
- PUC and County needs to take an active role in implementing plan. SENTECH should present plan to PUC.

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- Plan should require stakeholders to come back together every three years to evaluate plan, make suggestions to move things along faster, make changes for improvements. Basically create a report card of the implementation process.

### Goals/Vision

- 1960's electricity was 100% biomass generated. We should be trying to get back to that.
- Can you please amplify concept of green jobs- what is a green job and who may do that job? Are they technical in nature? Should we add a line item on the easel referring to educating people to do these types of jobs? Some people are apathetic here on Kauai- very low value for education. The community needs to be educated to create these skills for people who live on island.
- Goals in vision of plan does not match what KIUC data/goals. Is the plan going to look at the data to remind KIUC what is realistic? During the analysis are you going to analyze what they are doing- is it realistic- are they able to reach their goals?
- Are the goal dates the same for each goal? What are the dates? HCEI goals do not match KIUC's. Need to question KIUC's plans- most of them are pie in the sky and not realistic. This will make it very difficult to implement.
- As an outsider from Montana, I'm the Vice President of the Montana Renewable Energy Association. KIUC is an extremely progressive co-op in Kauai compared to Montana. In Montana co-ops are extremely resistant to green energy. Montana is kind of like an island. As an educator, what's really effective is going directly to members and have them demand accountability from their co-op. There are two things that are helping us along: 1) General trend of push for renewable energy- can't stop it. 2) Education/awareness- encourage co-op members to push co-op to do something. Montana is good ol' boys club. Price Kauai pays for electricity is unbelievable. Currently, Montana pays 6-7 cents/kwhour for energy. If we got closer to what Kauai pays there would be more of a push for more green renewable energy.

### Supply

- Does Kauai really have good potential for wind energy?
- There are some other maps that have better detail for wind on DBEDT, but it doesn't have information related to birds.
- Need to distinguish between large scale commercial and small scale wind projects.
- Left out water rights.
- Will plan identify all the 109 permits that might be required?
- Suggestion: it would be worthwhile to add an appendix to the plan listing required permits/agencies so there is a central location people can go so they don't miss anything.
- There is a company that can speak well about the permitting process at the County. Sustainable Resources International just completed a study of water and ditches- up at higher elevations- in Moloaa and Kileaua. There was a water meeting few days ago. The conclusion was that the ditches up above the reservoir needs to be improved. It serves 125 customers. Econo ditches and Wainiha could be potential uses for hydro projects. All ditches need to be improved – it is very hard work, expensive, but it's important for hydro. We need to improve higher ditches around the island.

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- KIUC owns a large reservoir on the south side. Potentially it could have hydro outlet. They are not currently utilizing it.
- What is the average kilowatt usage per household? National average is 750/kwhour.
- I think KIUC states the average household bill is approximately \$200/month.

### Conversion Technologies

- KIUC – everything is same price no matter what time of day you use energy. Need a tiered rate system.
- Plugging in elective cars is good strategy at night – but putting in more solar rather than using existing oil is what we need to do.
- Do you work with hybrid vehicles a lot?
- Impressed by how many solar water heaters on homes there are in Kauai.

### Distribution

- What motivates KIUC to move in this direction? How is it profitable?
- A lot of the big users are putting in their own generating sources. Incentive for KIUC is to prevent losing market share.
- Reduce need to build more, even the out flow during day and night. Need net metering or off-peak pricing.
- KIUC has built-in assumption that they expect demand to keep growing. KIUC is assuming that they need to plan for increased demand over the next 20-30 years. Did you mention doing scenario analysis in the plan? The plan should question KIUC's assumption that demand will continue to increase.
- If you are the intervener you can do that.
- I've got a net metering system for solar panels. Cost was expensive - \$50,000. It will take 40 years to pay that off based on rebates. These solar panel systems are very inefficient/cost prohibitive for mom and pop to do. They need to be done on a larger scale; 400-500 homeowners need to pull together to make it affordable.
- Cost of PV systems are coming down and will continue to decrease in the next few years.

### End Use

- In regards to energy efficiency of commercial and industrial building, Kauai's buildings are energy hogs, especially civic buildings. Kauai is antiquated; the energy codes they follow are a watered-down version of old code from 1980's. Most buildings are built by developers that don't consider energy efficiency. Not required by any permitting process to have energy efficient building.
- No one on island could administer the codes. No training for energy efficiency building codes.
- PMRF is biggest user of electricity. PMRF could go off the grid. Would be good experiment.
- They do go off grid when launching.
- ONR has obligated \$10 million to smart grid installation at PMRF over next two years. Solar sensors are in place to determine best place to generate power. DOD has mandate to

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go 75% renewable energy by 2050. PMRF would like to produce its own energy but federal regulations prohibit government entities from competing with private providers.

- Ocean thermal energy-is PMRF looking at that? It's simple technology.

### Stakeholder Meetings

- No discussion of how much this plan and implementation is going to cost. Do you have information that you can share?
- Suggestion: Part of the plan with KIUC should be to break plan actions down into dollar amounts; show stakeholders the cost to get them on board. This is crucial. Dollars speak the loudest. We went through this in Montana.
- As people consume more KIUC wants to raise rates to recapture profits.
- In regards to decoupling and feed in tariffs, Mina Morita is very knowledgeable. Decoupling is not being pursued at State level yet. Are you speaking with Mina? She ushered lots of new energy legislation in this year.
- In regards to cost of plan, need a chart showing different oil prices and what it would cost if we don't do anything. Compare oil prices to renewable/efficiency prices. Don't know when oil prices are going up but sure they will.
- Comparison should include more than costs of oil, should include other costs that are identified and evaluated such as environmental and social issues, etc.
- When federal government changes energy laws, tax credits, etc. it will have a huge impact on local levels.
- Implementing this plan will be a HUGE investment of something like \$200 million or more. Tough to do this while economy is down. Costs have to be looked at very carefully where we can biggest bang for the buck.
- For conservation and energy efficiency, KIUC has a financing solar water heater program that very few people are taking advantage of. Could loan system be developed through large banks for property owners? KIUC isn't having success getting word out about their financing and rebates programs.
- In Montana we have a revolving loan program- 3.5% interest up to \$40,000 loan for people to take advantage.
- Getting money is not the reason people aren't taking advantage of KIUC financing program. Need a promotional push.
- Are there any local environmental organizations participating in the plan process? Are they involved in the plan process?
- Problem with KLIC solar water heating program is you have to use their contractors and they are about 30% more expensive. If you don't use their approved contractors individual, you can't take advantage of financing program.