

Bioeconomy Hawaii Forum 2018

On January 16th, we convened a sold-out crowd of 120 industry practitioners, international experts, and state and county representatives at Hawai'i's Capitol to for the 3rd annual discussion of opportunities and challenges at the intersection between food and energy production in Hawaii. Co-hosted by Speaker Emeritus Calvin Say and Senate Transportation and Energy Committee Chair Lorraine Inouye, the event included both informational briefings and policy workshops.



Opportunities

One man's waste is another woman's feedstock:

Visionary projects in Hawaii divert waste from farms, landfills, and wastewater to make food, feed, fuel... and consumer products for eco-tourists.

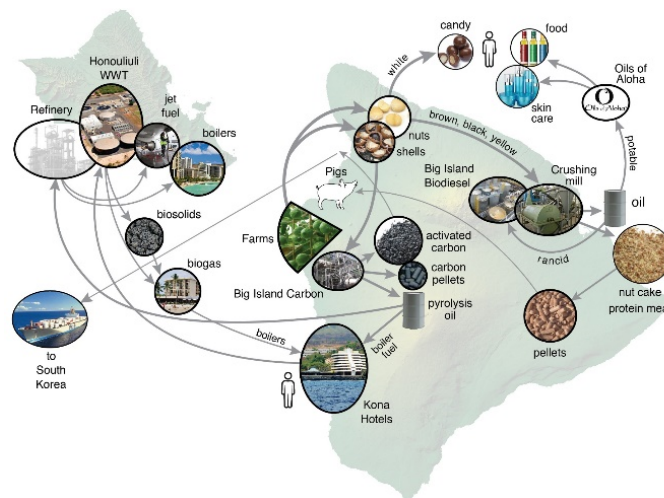
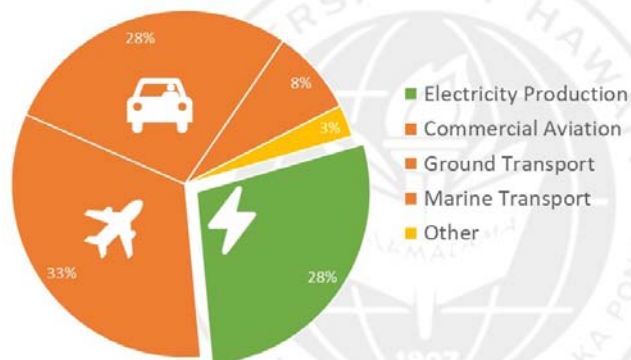
New take on old ways: Removing invasive species and restoring indigenous Hawaiian plants and ecological methods can restore ecosystems... and also produce marketable products in food, feed, fiber, & fuel.

Why burn it when you can bottle it? We celebrated the contract between Hawai'i Gas and Honolulu County to capture methane from wastewater treatment and make transportation biofuel. 10 years to get there.

There's money in those trees: Hawaii's nearly forgotten eucalyptus forests are standing bioenergy resources and will become a fire hazard. Buyers in South Korea and Japan are willing to buy wood chips to replace coal.

Technology matured in past 5 years can convert waste to coal, diesel, gas, and jet fuel substitutes.

As petroleum use for electricity has gone down...



Example of an integrated food, energy, and waste re-use system

Challenges

The New NIMBYs: Residential and tourism encroachment on fallow land means that new neighbors are not used to seeing land in agricultural use. Lawsuits can and do stop projects, despite full environmental review and valid sustainability measures. Few companies survive.

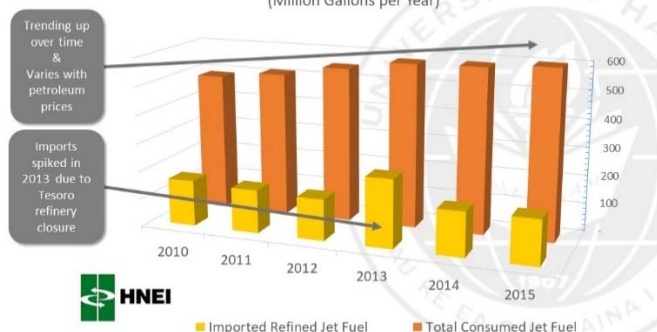
When risk of making decision > doing nothing: Currently the risk to government officials to make decisions is higher than the risk of not making a decision. Companies applying for environmental and procurement decisions can wait a year or more for decision, and have no recourse to get answers. Business as usual continues and sea level rises...

The down side of high [electricity] expectations: Each barrel of oil imported to the state goes to make air, marine, ground fuel, asphalt, etc *as well as* electricity. As Hawaii's clean electricity goals have reduced electricity fuel use, it has destabilized a previously balanced system.

It's hard to compete against fossil fuels. But that doesn't mean don't try. There are some things the state can do.

Jet fuel imports have gone up

Hawaii Commercial Jet Fuel Consumption & Imports
(Million Gallons per Year)

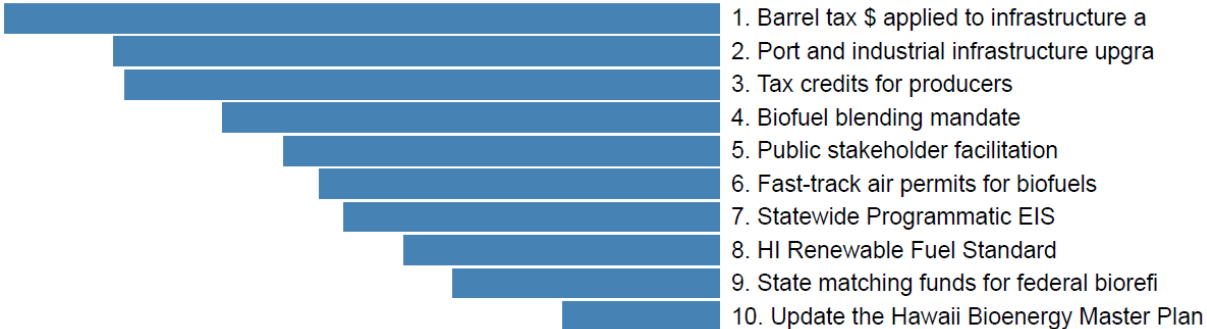


Questions? Contact: [carl\[at\]hawaii.bioeconomy.org](mailto:carl[at]hawaii.bioeconomy.org)



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Voting Results: Policy Recommendations for Integrated food and Fuel Systems

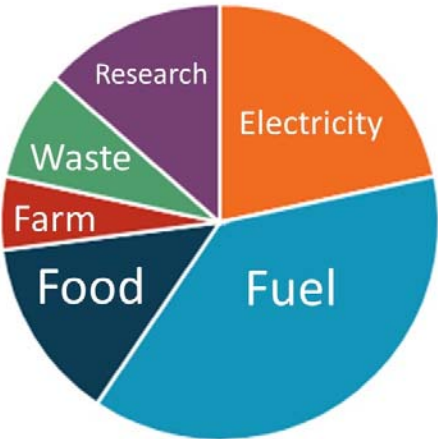


What is the biggest obstacle you face in your integrated food and energy bioeconomy efforts?

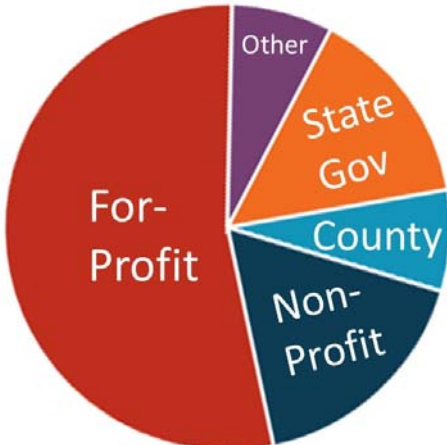


Who was there to participate?

What market sector brought you here today?



What kind of entity do you work for?



**HAWAII ENERGY
POLICY FORUM**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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Par Hawaii



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