

**HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT WORKING GROUP
ACTION PLAN**

TEN POINT PLAN POINTS #6 & 9

**#6 - Encourage Culturally Appropriate and Sustainable Energy Planning
#9 - Support Sustainable Development and Use of Biofuels**

Goal(s):

- Develop strategy and procedures to identify cultural sites in which new energy production facilities should not occur, and an appropriate methodology for communicating such information to energy production facility planners and developers, policymakers and the public.
- Advocate for establishment of a model, community-based biofuel production & distribution system to displace non-indigenous (imported) energy sources
- Identify proven indigenous models that might be used to introduce less expensive energy to Hawaii's urban centers and remote rural communities.
- Provide incentives to involve Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian communities as stakeholders in efforts to redevelop idled urban and plantation era lands into productive use within the energy production business chain.
- Encourage no-development areas that promote energy conservation by reducing the demand for energy.
- Address sustainable community energy requirements.

Background:

Native Hawaiian and other less affluent communities have historically been “burdened” with the placement in their neighborhoods of large power generating, and water, sewage and waste treatment facilities. Two issues of concern to the Forum are:

- Options to be considered usually feature conventional technologies that use disproportionate amounts of energy to operate, or are more expensive on a life-cycle basis.
- Finding a location for new such facilities is often a difficult and divisive process that often pits more populous, affluent communities with less affluent communities.

Hawaii, with its wealth of smart, proven, indigenous technologies, should be leading a change in energy production towards innovative, energy efficient options as well as options that have life cycle savings over conventional practices. The placement of energy production facilities should also not disturb culturally sensitive sites and avoid creating “burdened” communities.

HECO's recent approach to working with the Kapolei and Waianae communities as “burdened communities” with respect to the construction of five power plants in their district serves as an excellent model in terms of devising an action plan.

Development of indigenous renewable energy resources in Hawai'i creates opportunities to combine economic development and renewable energy policy objectives. Given that many of these resources are located or may be efficiently developed on Native Hawaiian lands, cooperative ventures with ali'i trust and other Hawaiian organizations are encouraged. Some of these lands hold significant cultural value to the Native Hawaiian community and their development may not be supported, and, in fact, opposed by the Native Hawaiian community.

It is recommended that the Forum create strategic alliances with organizations like the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), Kamehameha Schools – Bishop Estates (KSBE), and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to identify appropriate resources by building on current State Historical Preservation Department (SHPD) listings, current reviews, development of a list of undocumented sites (with appropriate technical support) and eventually determine “go/no go” areas for infrastructure development via a Cultural Inventory of Traditional and Energy Resources (CITER) Model.

In keeping with the original Cultural Issues Working Group (2003 and 2005), priority must be given to involvement of Native Hawaiian values and community leaders in site selections of industrial infrastructure in burdened communities, and how to commence discussion and empowerment. This will be accomplished by developing a demonstration project in a burdened community for culturally appropriate and environmentally responsible technologies with support from the community, Native Hawaiian groups and stakeholders.

Objectives and Desired Outcomes:

- Formulate policies and procedural frameworks to include an evaluation of social and cultural impacts of energy issues.
- Establish a community benefits process (such as one used by HECO re: a proposed energy installation near Nanakuli) to address concerns of “burdened communities”.
- Engage Hawaiian and broader community in selection of culturally appropriate sites for energy production and distribution
- Establish a process which defines cultural energy issues, and facilitates making more informed decisions regarding the protection of “traditional and customary” practices and resources impacted by land use and shoreline projects related to energy projects.
- Empower surrounding communities as stakeholders in new technology and energy self-sufficiency by successful demonstration projects.
- Forum becomes energy member of the 2050 Sustainability Plan group

Indicators / Metrics:

- “Burdened communities” are identified and charted.
- Areas in which energy production facilities should not be placed are identified and appropriately charted.

- A “white paper” is prepared that identifies and summarizes how energy conservation and production can best occur in Hawai`i under several successful indigenous models of sustainability (i.e., ahupua’a).
- A community outreach plan is developed.
- A “white paper” is prepared in ways that indigenous communities can be major stakeholders in new technology and opportunities for energy production and energy conservation.
- CITER Model for potential “positive” sites.

Specific Forum Actions:

- Actions to be Taken/Underway
 - Begin preliminary meetings to develop strategic alliance with OHA
 - Convene working group with OHA to cross check West Oahu sites and development options statewide;
 - Conduct teleconference meetings with local utilities, OHA, SHPD and other Hawaiian organizations, and private sector partners. Minimal cost - should be absorbed by strategic alliance partners.
- Actions Taken
 - Preparation of LNG Study