

Hawaii Biomass & Bioenergy Workshop

What's the Buzz? & What's in it for Hawaii's Agriculture?

Workshop Agenda

All activities unless otherwise noted are located in Hokulani Ballroom Room #3

Time	Session or Activity
8:00-8:45	Registration and Continental Breakfast and visit the Tradeshow
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Ley, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency • Chris Kanazawa, State Director, USDA Rural Development • Bill Hagy, Special Assistant for Alternative Energy Policy for USDA Rural Development
9:00 - 9:30	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bittleman, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, USDA
9:30-10:30	Food AND Fuel for Hawaii <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell Kokubun, Vice President , Hawaii State Senate • Dr. Makena Coffman, Assistant Professor of Urban & Regional Planning at University of Hawaii, Manoa • Abbey Mayer, Director, Hawaii State Office of Planning • John Cross, Land Manager, Ed Olson Trust (Invited)
10:30-10:45	15 minute break
10:45 - 11:55	USDA Biofuels Roadmap – President Obama’s Plan to Transition America’s Energy Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bittleman, Secretary Vilsack’s Office, USDA & Bill Hagy, USDA Rural Development Fuel Purchasing - Who is Doing the “Pulling” in the Military <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Tindal, Director for Operational Energy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy Office (Invited) Panel A - Why Biomass & Biofuels for Hawaii? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Tome, Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism • Cecily Barnes, Hawaii Electric Industries • Andrew Hashimoto, University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
11:55-12:00	5 minute break
12:00-1:00	Networking Lunch
1:00-1:05	5 minute break
1:05-2:05	Panel B - What’s in it for Producers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duane Okamoto, Hawaii Department of Agriculture • Stevie Whalen, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center • Eileen O’Hara, Pacific Biodiesel LLC • Chris Benjamin, Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar • Paul Zorner, Hawaii Bioenergy, LLC
2:05-2:10	5 minute break

2:10-3:10	Panel C - Federal Resources to Assist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, USDA Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center • Lynn Tjeerdsma, USDA Farm Service Agency • Tim O’Connell, USDA Rural Development • Mike Robotham, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Steve Lindenberg, US Department of Energy
3:10-3:15	5 minute break
3:15 - 4:00	Expanding the U.S. (Hawaii) Biofuels Market Facilitated discussion on the opportunities and challenges to expand Hawaii biofuels production capabilities and accessing “local” markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bittleman, USDA Office of the Secretary & Bill Hagy, USDA Rural Development • Diane Ley, USDA Farm Service Agency • Tim O’Connell, USDA Rural Development
4:00 - 4:45	Stakeholder feedback on the USDA Biofuels Roadmap and local recommendations on how to meet the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2)

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Welcome!

Biomass – Biofeed Stock – Biofuels – Bioenergy – Lots of buzz, but how do these components of the agricultural and energy industries come together to create a new locally-grown and processed green energy economy that will enhance Hawaii’s current agricultural industry; generate new business opportunities; establish our country’s energy security; and proactively address global climate change?

We know the path is not clear. Yet, we know that players in Hawaii’s agricultural sector will persevere and find the way to success and profits, as they have done in the past with traditional taro cultivation and aquaculture; sugar cane and pineapple plantations; high value flowers and foliage exports; vegetable import replacements; and community supported agriculture at farmers markets, grocery stores and restaurants.

Join us as the U.S. Department of Agriculture hosts the Hawaii Biomass & Bioenergy Workshop to learn more about a new vision for a green energy economy; who is doing what research; who will buy the biomass and biofuels; and what it will take to make this new sector a success. Also provide your input into the opportunities and challenges of this emerging sector and share your thoughts on the *USDA Biofuels Roadmap* and recommendations on how to meet the Renewable Fuel Standards for 2022 (RFS2).

Workshop Speakers

Cecily Barnes, Biofuels Manager is leading Hawaiian Electric's biofuels acquisition. During her 18 year tenure with Hawaiian Electric she has managed Procurement and Supply Chain Logistics for the company, moving into her current biofuels role a little over one year ago. Barnes completed her Executive MBA at the University of Hawaii in 2009.

Christopher Benjamin is the Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and General Manager of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company, a division of A&B. In these capacities he oversees all financial matters of A&B and its subsidiaries; day-to-day operations at HC&S; and development of renewable energy programs for A&B. Benjamin has a degree in economics from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Sarah Bittleman is a Senior Advisor to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack specializing in energy, Environmental Protection Agency issues, Title I programs and other areas related to production agriculture. Bittleman previously worked for the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on a range of policy and strategic development issues involving agriculture, energy, natural resources and climate change. She holds a Master of Public Administration from East Carolina University, a Juris Doctorate from Tulane University of Law School and a BA in Political Science from Union College in New York.

John Cross (Invited) – Land Manager, Ed Olson Trust. Bio not available at time program was printed.

Makena Coffman is an Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawaii at Manoa. She teaches graduate courses in environmental planning related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Asia/Pacific Region; energy policy; planning methods; and environmental valuation. She specializes in economic-environment modeling, holds a BA in international relations from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is a Research Fellow with the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization.

Dennis Gonsalves is the Director of the USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii. He has a BS in Horticulture and Masters Degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Hawaii and a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Davis. He is well-known for his work in developing the genetically engineered ‘Rainbow’ papaya at Cornell University.

William “Bill” Hagy is the Special Assistant for Alternative Energy Policy for USDA Rural Development. He provides support to the Under Secretary for Rural Development and USDA Secretary Vilsack on policy matters relating to alternative energy development and provides organizational leadership for various boards and committees including the Biomass Research and Development Board and Technical Advisory Committee.

Andrew Hashimoto former Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He now serves as a faculty member of the College. Hashimoto received his BS in Civil Engineering and MS in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. His area of research has been in anaerobic fermentation for methane production and pretreatment of lignocelluloses for conversion to ethanol.

Chris Kanazawa is the State Director for USDA Rural Development for Hawaii and the Western Pacific and is responsible for the delivery of federal programs in housing, business and community infrastructure, and facilities. Previously, Kanazawa focused his career in the private sector, with over 23 years in the real estate development industry. He holds a BA in Economics from the University of Hawaii and a MBA in Accounting and Finance from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

Russell Kokubun is the Vice-President of the Hawaii State Senate. He is also a member of the Ways and Means, Energy and Environment, Higher Education, and Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committees, and he previously served as the Chair of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force. Kokubun has served in the Hawaii State Senate since 2000 and was previously elected to the Hawaii County Council from 1984-1992. He established and operated a family farm on Hawaii Island. Kokubun graduated from Punahou School and received a BBA from Southern Methodist University.

Diane Ley is the State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin and is responsible for the delivery of farm credit, disaster assistance and conservation programs for farmers and ranchers. Ley has held administrative posts with the County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development, the Hawaii Board of Agriculture and the Hawaii Farm Bureau. She also operated a vegetable farm in Volcano and is an alumnus and board member of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii.

Steve Lindenberg is the Senior Advisor, Renewable Energy for the U.S. Department of Energy in Honolulu. He currently has responsibility for coordinating efforts to expand deployment of energy efficiency, advanced vehicles, wind, solar, water, geothermal and biomass energy resources across the Pacific region. Lindenberg has directed environmental compliance and business line research and development in the electric utility industry for more than thirty years.

Abbey Seth Mayer, Director, State Office of Planning oversees the review and input to the State Land Use Commission on all petitions for district boundary amendments; coordinating the State's Geographical Information System; and leading Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program. Mayer is Chair of the Ocean

Resources Management Plan Policy Group and Chair of the State Climate Change Task Force. He has a graduate degree in Accounting from UH – Manoa and a BA from Yale University.

Tim O’Connell is the Assistant to the Hawaii State Director of the USDA Rural Development. O’Connell manages the Rural Energy for America Program by providing outreach, guidance and oversight to successful applicants. He also serves as the Cooperative Development Specialist, is the coordinator for the Office of Community Development programs, manages internal planning and provides support in marketing all USDA programs. O’Connell has a BS in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University and is an alumnus of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii.

Eileen O’Hara is the Business Development Specialist for Pacific Biodiesel, Inc. and is currently working on developing a state-of-the-art 2.6Mgpy biodiesel facility on the Island of Hawaii. She assists in grant writing and business planning for the Pacific Biodiesel family of companies that operate in Hawaii and on the U.S. mainland, while also teaching online undergraduate and graduate economics courses at two universities. Eileen holds a doctorate in Resource Economics from the University of Hawaii.

Duane Okamoto is the Deputy to the Chairperson for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, where he has focused on matters as diverse as Important Agricultural Lands, the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board, post-earthquake repairs of the Waimea Irrigation System, the transfer of agricultural lands from DLNR to HDOA, and HDOA’s Energy Feedstock Program. Okamoto has an MBA and previously managed his own consulting firm.

Michael Robotham is the Assistant Director for Soil Science and Natural Resource Assessments for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Pacific Islands Area. He has a doctoral degree in Agronomy and Soil Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has been involved with agriculture, soils and environmental quality related issues in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands since 1998, first with the UH Cooperative Extension Service and for the past eight years with USDA-NRCS.

Chris Tindal (Invited) – Tindal is the Director for Operational Energy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy Office. He is responsible for setting policy and direction for the Department of Navy and promoting renewable energy resources. Tindal is a Professional Engineer and Certified Energy Manager. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has been Navy man for over 30 years.

Lynn Tjeerdsma – Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs with the USDA Farm Service Agency. Bio not available at time this program was printed.

Maria Tome is a Renewable Energy Program Manager at the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism’s, Energy Office. She is a registered Professional Engineer with over twenty years experience in renewable and transportation energy in Hawaii, including energy strategies, resource assessments, policy analysis and technical review of biomass, ethanol, biodiesel, methane, solar, wind, and renewable portfolio standards. She oversaw the Bioenergy Master Plan project and a statewide biofuels assessment.

Stephanie A. Whalen is the Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (formerly the Hawaiian Sugar Planter’s Association). She has over 30 years experience in the agricultural industry in Hawaii and has been involved a wide range of issues and concerns relating to agriculture. HARC is currently involved in asset management to maintain infrastructure resources for the diversified agriculture and is leading an effort to develop a specialty and biofuel crop farm model.

Paul Zorner is the President and CEO of Hawaii BioEnergy, a partnership of Hawaii landowners and financial investors that are focused on energy and food security within the state. Zorner has worked in production agriculture and horticulture for over 30 years in the US and internationally for both large Fortune 500 companies and a variety of agricultural based venture start-ups. Over the last 15 years, his work has focused on converting agricultural biomass to renewable fuels, chemicals and value-added materials.