



Renewable Energy Planning Principles



Renewable energy is the first option.

We are pursuing cost-effective renewable resource opportunities that reduce carbon emissions and stabilize customer bills.

Getting off imported fossil fuels removes Hawai'i from the volatility of world energy markets and gives future generations a tremendous advantage. It can also create a clean energy research and development industry for our state.



The energy transformation must include everyone.

Electricity is essential. Our plans, as well as public policy, should ensure access to affordable

electricity, with special consideration given to low-to-moderate-income households. Meaningful community participation must be a key element of renewable project planning.



The lights have to stay on.

Reliability and resilience of service and quality of power is vital for our economy, for our national security, and for critical societal infrastructure. Our customers expect it, deserve it and pay for it. Our plans must maintain or enhance the resilience of our isolated island grids by relying on a mix of resources and technologies.



Today's decisions must be open to tomorrow's breakthroughs.

Our plans keep the door open to developments in the rapidly evolving energy space. We

must be able to easily accept new, emerging, and breakthrough technologies that are cost-effective and efficient when they become commercially viable.



The power grid needs to be modernized.

Energy distribution is rapidly moving to the digital age. We are reinventing our grid to facilitate a decarbonized energy portfolio and to enable technologies such as demand response, dynamic pricing, aggregation and electrification of transportation.



Our plans must address climate change.

We have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions more than 20% over the past 10 years. Still, our plans must go further to reduce the warming of our planet and to minimize the impacts climate change will have on the energy system—rising sea levels, coastal erosion, increased temperatures, and extreme weather events.



There's no perfect choice.

No single energy source or technology can achieve our clean energy goals. Every choice has an impact, whether it's physical or financial. While we can mitigate those impacts, attaining our clean energy goals has major implications for our land and natural resources, our economy and our communities. We seek to make the best choices by engaging with community members, regulators, policy makers and other stakeholders.