# A Postcard from the Future

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IRENA Innovation Week Plenary II: Systemic Innovation

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Figure 1

### Hawaii Electric Systems 4 electric utilities; 6 separate grids



## Hawaii's Energy Policy



#### Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 226-18

Planning for the State's facility systems with regard to energy shall be directed toward the achievement of the following objectives, giving due consideration to all:

- **Dependable**, **efficient**, and **economical** statewide energy systems capable of supporting the needs of the people (1978);
- Increased energy self-sufficiency where the ratio of indigenous to imported energy is increased (1978);
- Greater energy security in the face of threats to Hawaii's energy supplies and systems (1981); and
- Reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions from energy supply and use (2000).

## **Driving & Implementing Energy Policy**



### Implementing & Sustaining Hawaii's Energy Policy









## KIUC – January 2016

•Jan. 13: Total of 61 minutes at or above 90% renewables with 59 MW of demand and an average resource mix of 71% solar, 8% hydro, 11% biomass, 10% diesel;

•Jan. 16: Total of 34 minutes at or above 90% renewables with 57 MW of demand and an average resource mix of 73% solar, 8% hydro, 9% biomass, 10% diesel;

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•Jan. 17: Total of 34 minutes at or above 90% renewables with 53 MW of demand and an average resource mix of 72% solar, 8% hydro, 10% biomass and 10% diesel;

•Jan. 18: Total of 5 minutes at or above 90% renewables with 58 MW of demand and an average resource mix of 77% solar, 6% hydro, 7% biomass and 10% diesel.





Establishing an organizational culture that acknowledges the urgency and cultivates the discipline, mindset and skill sets necessary to survive and thrive in a rapidly changing environment.



The acquisition of skills requires a regular environment, an adequate opportunity to practice, and rapid and unequivocal feedback about the correctness of thoughts and actions. When these conditions are fulfilled, skill eventually develops, and the intuitive judgments and choices that quickly come to mind will mostly be accurate.

Quote from Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman

# What can Hawaii share from its experience in moving towards a clean energy transformation?

- Do not focus solely on the generation side of the equation, a transformation requires a multi-prong, systems approach
- Adopt a "no-regrets" strategy moving forward (reduce demand and carefully scrutinize new capital investments)
  - Energy efficiency, building codes, demand response
  - Maximize and optimize your existing low cost carbon generators and renewable generators
- What's needed are technical and affordable solutions, therefore the regulatory process must accommodate problem solving in a less legal and political way with good staff and resources
- When decoupling electricity sales from revenue requirements include performance standards (moving from traditional ratemaking to performance based regulation)
  - The regulator and utility leadership must be in sync to lay the ground work for the business model for the electric utility of the future

## What are Hawaii's biggest challenges

- Maintaining political will or avoiding political interference
- Changing the business model of the electric utility and current culture within the utility
- Where to make the best infrastructure investments for the future given rapid technology advancements
- Current tax credits subsidizes most expensive options
- Current low cost of oil, Governor's reluctance to consider LNG

### What will the postcard from Hawaii say?

As closed and bounded systems, the islands of Hawaii are a manageable unit of study of complex systems that can change in a very short time period compared to a larger, continental area. Therefore, Hawaii is a bellwether of what is to come for bigger electric networks and systems. Optimistically, the postcard will beckon one to a competitive-cooperative partnership within a seamless electric system paradise, a sustainable model that can be exported throughout the world. Or the postcard will heed warnings from an electric system dystopia where the commons have been ravaged solely for short-term gains. I hope for the former.

Hermina

Morita

"Designing Regulation Around Technology Innovation: Experiences from Hawaii" Infrastructure Risk Management: Assessing and Managing Dynamic Exogenous Risk