



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology

Water Economics and Renewable Energy Technologies

Water is a key factor in many schemes for reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuels. Likewise, energy costs are a key factor in attempts to expand water supplies. The economics of diverting water to produce biofuels or the like, and of using energy to expand water supplies have become controversial issues. In general, water has not been viewed as a private commodity, and its use has not been subjected to the discipline of markets. This has often led to under-pricing of water, and thence to over consumption and waste.

I will convey some basic economic principles for water pricing, discuss recent developments in economic analysis aimed at achieving efficiency in water use while avoiding political pressures to keep rates low, and report on some economic issues surrounding the interface between water and energy.

James E. T. Moncur

Director

Water Resources Research Center

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

3:15 – 4:15 PM

POST 723

Sponsored by

Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution