**Objective and Significance:** Through this project, HNEI supports and manages the Hawaiʻi Energy Policy Forum (HEPF) in its mission to advance Hawaiʻi’s energy transition through energy stakeholder engagement in fact finding, analysis, information sharing, and advocacy that enables informed decisions.

**Background:** The HEPF was established in 2002 by the University of Hawaiʻi’s College of Social Sciences as a collaborative energy planning and policy group consisting of Hawaiʻi’s electric utilities, oil and synthetic natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, academia, and federal, state, and local government. In its first five years, the Forum was instrumental in promoting funding and needed reform for the State’s utility regulatory agencies (i.e., the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Division of Consumer Advocacy), and commissioned studies, reports, and briefings to raise the level of dialog concerning energy issues for legislators and the general public.

The Forum sponsors and organizes a Legislative Briefing at the Capitol at the opening of each legislative session, an annual Hawaiʻi Clean Energy Day event, and sponsors programs to develop reliable information and educate and raise awareness in the community. Among its members, HEPF has more than 75 representatives from the electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, academia, and federal, state and local government all working together to seek smart energy solutions to sustain a healthy prosperous, and secure Hawaiʻi.

The Forum’s mission is to share ideas and information, recommend and advocate policies and initiatives, and promote civic action to achieve a clean and sustainable energy future for Hawaiʻi. To this end, it conducts research, briefings, forums for informative and deliberative dialogue and policy development, annual legislative briefings, and outreach and public education. HEPF also produces the biweekly “Hawaiʻi: State of Clean Energy” production, streamed on ThinkTech Hawaiʻi (https://thinktechhawai.com/), and made available on the HEPF website.

**Project Status/Results:** HEPF held the 2022 Legislative Briefing on Friday, January 28th. The theme of the Legislative Briefing was focused on gaps in Hawaiʻi’s energy infrastructure and how the $1.2 billion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by President Biden on Nov. 15, 2021 could be used to address the most vulnerable aspects of that infrastructure.

In response to the critical needs addressed, HEPF took the following actions:

- Creation of online informational resources for members and the public focusing on compilation of the significant new federal policies related to energy which includes a description of the policy, policy type, relevant sector, funding opportunities, and managing agency. Initially, this featured the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and later included the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Formation of Committees on Port Resilience, Geothermal Energy, and Recycling of Clean Energy Materials to explore how investments in renewable microgrids, firm renewable energy, and PV and battery energy storage system recycling could improve island community resilience and Hawaiʻi’s economy.

HEPF is also a key contributor to ETIPP, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project, working alongside remote, island, and island communities seeking to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience through strategic energy planning and the implementation of solutions that address their specific challenges.

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