**Objective and Significance:** Through this project HNEI supports the activities of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (HEPF) in its mission to enable informed decisions to advance Hawai‘i’s clean energy future by convening a network of stakeholders for fact finding, analysis, information sharing, and advocacy.

**Background:** The HEPF was established in 2002 as a collaborative energy planning and policy group. The organization consists of roughly 40 representatives from the electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, academia, and federal, state and local government. It is managed by the University of Hawaii College of Social Sciences. In its early years, the Forum was instrumental in several significant areas—including focusing priority and getting energy issues “on the decision-making table”, promoting funding and needed reform for the State’s utility regulatory agencies (i.e., the Public Utilities Commission and the Division of Consumer Advocacy), and commissioning studies, reports and briefings to raise the level of dialog concerning energy issues for legislators and the general public. The Forum sponsors and organizes several well attended annual events, including Hawaii Clean Energy Day, and a Legislative Briefing at the Capitol at the opening of each legislative session, and sponsors programs to develop reliable information and educate and raise awareness in the community. Two HNEI faculty members significantly contribute to HEPF activities, including sitting on the HEPF’s Steering Committee, chairing the Transportation and Electricity Working Groups, and hosting and coordinating the weekly Think Tech show.

**Project Status/Results:** During FY 2018-2019, HEPF focused on redeveloping its role, developing collaborative member-driven initiatives to help inform policy, diversifying its outreach activities, and launching a new website with legislative and docket proceeding resources for stakeholders and the general public. Specific new initiatives include:

- **Peer Exchange Program:** HEPF is hosting peer exchanges (small group policy discussions) to encourage collaborative dialogue amongst members and non-members (including subject matter experts) to inform policy. In the inaugural round, HEPF sponsored three peer exchange projects focused on transportation: 1) a mitigation-resilience-equity nexus approach, 2) implementing energy performance contracts for government fleets, and 3) transportation strategic energy planning. Outcomes and next steps will be shared with the public on HEPF’s website and at HEPF’s annual legislative briefing in January 2020.

- **Member Portal**
  A new online space for members to share information, ask questions, and coordinate meetings was developed. With enhanced communication tools and the ability to participate at one’s convenience, the Portal makes it easier for members to engage and collaborate with one another to help inform policy.

- **Outreach**
  - Sponsored 3 events - Hawaii Climate Change Conference, Bioeconomy Forum, and Maui Hawaii Energy Conference
  - Sponsored the weekly “Hawaii: State of Clean Energy” series on ThinkTech Hawaii.

- **Website**
  HEPF launched a new website (https://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepf/) that houses updates on HEPF activities and various resources for energy stakeholders and the general public.

- **Information Resources**
  HEPF has created new resources for members and the public focusing on policy in the legislature and the PUC. In 2018-2019, six documents and databases were published.

- **Student Development**
  Through HEPF, two to three graduate students per semester and one undergrad web designer have been funded.

- **Funding Sources:** Energy Systems Development Special Fund; Hawaii State Barrel Tax

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  **Last Updated:** March 2020