

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **County of Hawai‘i Energy Sustainability Program Five-Year Roadmap available for public review and comment**

*Plan drafted by The Kohala Center aims to increase energy self reliance and taxpayer savings*

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—November 16, 2012—The Kohala Center, under the direction of the County of Hawai‘i Department of Research and Development, released a draft County of Hawai‘i Energy Sustainability Program Five Year Roadmap, which provides recommendations to strengthen the County’s energy program and realize more than \$3.9 million in taxpayer savings.

The Roadmap recommends County actions that will save significant taxpayer dollars, while empowering the County government to lead the transition to energy sustainability. Successful implementation will position Hawai‘i County to assume a proactive leadership role at critical state-level energy policy proceedings, including those of the Public Utilities Commission and the Legislature.

The Energy Sustainability Roadmap also updates the County of Hawai‘i Energy Baseline study, sponsored by The Kohala Center in 2006. ([http://www.kohalacenter.org/pdf/hawaii\\_county\\_baseline\\_energ.pdf](http://www.kohalacenter.org/pdf/hawaii_county_baseline_energ.pdf)). The Roadmap demonstrates that electricity is only part of the total energy consumption on the island. Among its findings are:

- In 2011, Hawai‘i Island produced more electricity from renewable sources—37 percent—than any other island in the state. However, electricity consumption represents a small fraction (15 percent) of the island’s overall energy use.
- More than half (52 percent) of all energy consumed on the island is used in the transportation sector. This includes, on average, consumption of more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline per day.
- About 24 percent of the island’s energy supply is lost during conventional electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.
- Other petroleum-based fuels for residential, agricultural, and commercial/industrial applications account for the remaining nine percent of energy supply.
- Overall, 95 percent of the island’s total energy needs are met with imported petroleum fuels.

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- Hawai‘i Island possesses abundant—yet untapped—solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and bioenergy resources. Collectively, these renewable energy resources far exceed the island’s total energy needs. The technologies required to harness these resources are commercially available today and, in most cases, the cost of deploying these technologies is below the current cost of petroleum-based energy production.

The Kohala Center has released the draft County of Hawai‘i Energy Sustainability Program Five-Year Roadmap for public review and comment. The Executive Summary and full Roadmap are available for download and review at <http://www.hawaiienergyplan.com>. Public comments will be accepted via email at [energy@hawaiienergyplan.com](mailto:energy@hawaiienergyplan.com), or via telephone by calling (808) 887-6411. For those who wish to review the documents and do not have access to the Internet, please contact The Kohala Center at (808) 887-6411. The public comment period ends on December 5.

**About The Kohala Center**

The Kohala Center (<http://www.kohalacenter.org>) is an independent, community-based center for research, education, and conservation. The Center was established in direct response to the request of island residents to create greater educational and employment opportunities by enhancing—and celebrating—Hawai‘i’s spectacular natural and cultural landscapes.

**About The County of Hawai‘i Department of Research and Development**

The County of Hawai‘i Department of Research and Development (<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/research-and-development>) provides proactive leadership, enhancing the quality of life and sustainability of Hawai‘i Island communities through programs related to agriculture, energy, tourism, economic development, community development, and film.