

# SENATOR POHAI RYAN

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*Serving Senate District 25:*

*Hawaii Kai, Waimanalo, Keolu Hills, Lanikai & Kailua*

*Vice Chair, Hawaiian Affairs. Committee Membership: Public Safety, Military Affairs & Govt. Operations, Ways & Means, Water Land & Housing*



**MARCH  
2012**

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## SUSTAINABILITY and GREEN JOBS

### WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

The most popular definition can be traced to a 1987 UN conference. It defined sustainable developments as those that "meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"

It is extremely important that Hawaii focus on sustainability because we are an island state and, while connected with the national and international markets, we must heavily rely on our own resources. We have an obligation to care for our resources and pass on a better Hawaii to the next generation.

Another good reason to focus on sustainability is to improve our economy. Jobs in the "green" or "clean energy" industries are the professions of the future, providing opportunities for current workers and the future generation to access workforce opportunities with greater economic advantages while simultaneously meeting our obligations outlined in the state motto: "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness".

Hawaii holds a strategic advantage in sustainable industries due to our natural resources and our location as hub between the West and the East.

Many exciting developments are taking place, and the legislature is working on smart policy to meet the goals that will improve our state on many fronts.

### Electric Vehicles

The State of Hawaii Dept. of Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), through a federal grant, is partnering with private companies to put more electric vehicle charging stations per capita in our state than any other by the end of 2012. We are an ideal place for such a venture because of the high gas prices and short driving distances.

For more info visit: <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/evrebatesgrants/grants>

### Renewable Energy

During the week of September 6th, 2011, Hawaii hosted the Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit. Over 1,000 leaders from 12 countries met to form partnerships between government, investors and industry. The investment component is crucial, and will allow our state to get ground breaking initiatives off the ground and reach energy independence sooner.

DBEDT's Energy office and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are stepping up clean energy efforts even now.

**Saturday, May 10, 2012**



**Koolau Ballrooms**

**Interesting Industry Workshops**

**Great Exhibits by leaders**

**in the industry!**

**[www.wgbexpo.com](http://www.wgbexpo.com) for more info**

**GREEN JOBS** are defined as those that engage in at least one of five core green areas:

1. Generate clean, renewable, sustainable energy
2. Reduce pollution and waste, conserve natural resources, recycle
3. Energy efficiency
4. Education, training and support of a green workforce
5. Natural, environmentally-friendly production



**HAWAII GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE**

*Department of Labor & Industrial Relations*

[www.greenjobshawaii.org](http://www.greenjobshawaii.org)

(808) 586-8999

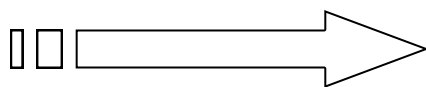
# HAWAII GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Hawaii experiences unique challenges in converting from a State that is 90% dependent on imported oil to one that meets the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative vision of being 70% reliant on renewable energy by 2030. As energy sector participants develop energy efficient and renewable energy solutions, a strategic consideration is the availability and reliability of Labor Market Information (LMI).



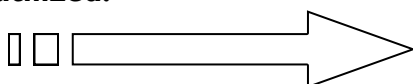
The **Hawaii Green Jobs Initiative** is part of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations' (DLIR) Research & Statistics Office. Launched in December 2009 with federal funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the program aims to assist the State of Hawaii transition to a greener economy. Our partners include a Green Workforce Intelligence Network composed of government and industry representatives.

The goal of the Hawaii Green Jobs Initiative is to generate baseline employment estimates and projections in which education and training providers can be confident. Products will include: occupation and skills reports for industries, industry sectors, and state and local areas; a dedicated green sector website; asset map of green employers and training providers; new career pathways and rapid reemployment tools; training and awareness outreach activities.



**The State of Hawaii has been awarded more than \$7 million in federal grants for renewable energy projects.**

**This is how the funds were utilized.**



- \$6.1 million to the University of Hawaii (UH) to work with industry partners to allow the electric grid to take on more solar energy by developing and demonstrating state of the art photovoltaic (PV) inverters.
- \$750,000 to state Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to provide technical assistance to the Public Utilities Commission and ultimately help remove barriers to allow for more renewable energy on the electric grid.
- \$300,000 to the UH Maui College in partnership with DBEDT and private industry to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in Hawaii.



## Hawaii State Capitol: Leading By Example

The Hawaii State Capitol Building has entered the EPA's Battle of the Buildings contest which is comprised of 245 buildings across the country competing to see who will reduce their energy consumption the most.

In 2008 the State Senate launched their paperless initiative to make bills, testimony, hearing notices and other legislative documents fully accessible online. As a result, the Senate has reduced paper usage by 80% since 2007. During the 2010 Legislative Session, 1.5 million pages were printed, compared to 8.3 million in 2007. Over the first three years of the initiative, the Senate has saved over half a million dollars in purchasing paper and copy machine expenses. Ours is the only legislature in the nation to operate fully paperless, and we are serving as a model for legislatures across the nation.

Other initiatives include recycling, energy and water conservation and emissions reduction.



CFPB Update: March 1, 2012  
CFPB NOW TAKING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ON CHECKING AND OTHER DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

Today, the CFPB began accepting consumer complaints about deposit accounts, including checking accounts, savings accounts, CDs, and other services.

CFPB LAUNCHES INQUIRY INTO OVERDRAFT PRACTICES

The CFPB has launched an inquiry into checking account overdraft programs to determine how these practices are impacting consumers.

CFPB UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE DESIGN

This week the CFPB re-launched [ConsumerFinance.gov](http://ConsumerFinance.gov) to better highlight the Bureau's events, initiatives, and issues, and make it easier for you to find what you are looking for.



## GREEN JOBS FOR THE HOMELESS

The State of Hawaii Office of Community Services is partnering with the Dept. of Human Services Homeless Program Branch to provide green job opportunities for individuals working toward escaping homelessness.

Programs will be organized into two categories:

1. Recycling at State Buildings
2. Hydroponics (produce)

Many state agencies already participate in recycling. But there is no organized effort

to get all of them involved in a coordinated effort. This is a perfect opportunity to have homeless shelter residents spearhead the collection process. This is a win-win because our state will become more environmentally friendly, while simultaneously providing funds to continue shelter services and give these individuals current work experience they will need when venturing out into the job market.

The hydroponics program is already underway at Next

Step Shelter. The residents grow the produce to be sold at farmers markets and other venues. There may also be an aquaponics program in the future, and again, the shelter residents would be responsible for tending the product (tilapia farming), and learning to get the product to market.

These initiatives are a part of the Governor's plan to end homelessness. We will be hearing more about such initiatives in the near future.



# HAWAII'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

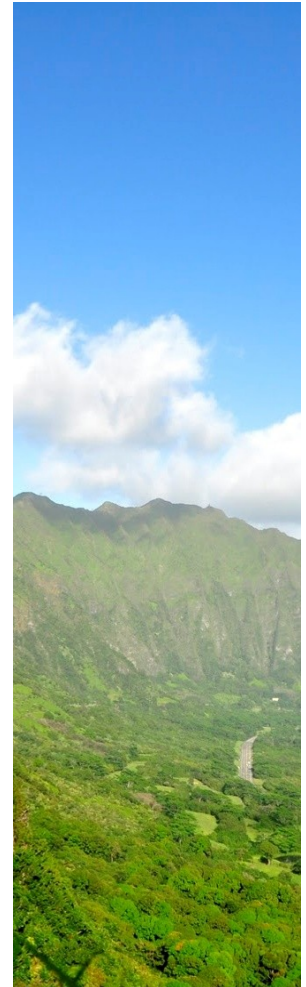
The initial Green Workforce Report, released in late 2009 highlights some notable findings regarding developing a green economy and green industries. This report formed the foundation for the Labor Market Improvement (LMI) Grant.

During 2010, surveys were sent to over 9,000 local companies, asking whether they would determine themselves to be "green" based on criteria presented.

In December 2010, an initial evaluation of the surveys was presented to the WDC. Most "green" jobs on Oahu and Maui focused mostly on construction industries, while on Kauai and Hawaii, waste management claim most of the green jobs. The 2011 report should be available soon.

To support Hawaii's efforts in developing a new green economy and the workforce needed to compete, seven recommendations were made:

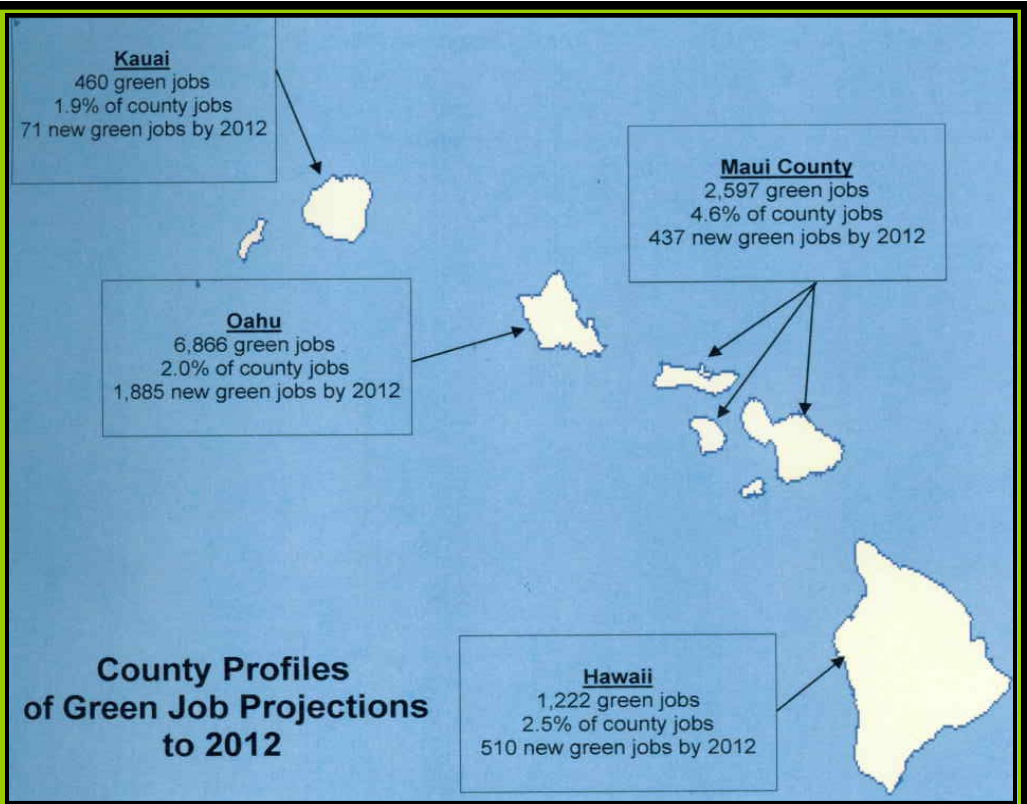
1. Conduct a survey of business establishments based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to determine occupations considered "green"
2. Determine the impact of "green practices" on industries and occupations that do not directly produce green products and services, but apply practices to daily operations to improve the environment and support sustainability
3. Expand green job development by soliciting job orders on the HireNet Hawaii website and by offering retraining and reemployment services for people to re-enter the workforce
4. Obtain green job openings by extracting jobs from online job banks and conducting job vacancy surveys
5. Build partnerships with employers, labor unions, and community colleges to provide guidance on gaps that exist within education and training systems
6. Conduct focus group sessions with industry representatives for better knowledge of needed skills
7. Support continuous improvement through usability studies and customer satisfaction surveys.



## GREEN JOBS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

- Green jobs in the private sector are estimated at 11,145 (2.4% of total private employment).
- Current green job vacancies estimated at 671 (1.5% of Hawaii's total unemployment).
- Between 2010 and 2012, employer worksites project the number of green jobs to increase by 26% to 14,048 (2.9% of total unemployment).
- Community colleges and trade schools fulfill 62% of the education and training requirements for green jobs.
- Average of 3.5 green practices per worksite in business reports.

*\*(information is based on projections)*





### DLNR District Night at Kainalu School



### Kainalu Elementary Aina in the Schools



### Snapshots at the Capitol



### Waimanalo Town Hall Meeting





# Historic Sites of Senate District 25

## Hanauma Bay

From a perch above Hanauma Bay, which is located at the eastern edge of Hawaii Kai, named "Mookua o Kaneapua," one can see Molokai, Lanai and Maui on a day with clear weather. Maui's enormous mountain, Haleakala, can also be seen. It's said that the area is a well known landing place for canoes from Molokai, since the easiest way to land on Oahu, due to swift wraparound currents that head north (making Sandy's a classic surfing spot), is to approach from the south of the island.

The name Hanauma could be interpreted using the word "uma" as curve, and "hana" which can mean bay. It is also said that, at one time, King Kamehameha I's favorite wife, Kaahumanu, once spent a month at Hanauma bay being entertained by hula and uma, which is the Hawaiian word for hand-wrestling competitions. It stayed a gathering area for royal people and was a known fishing spot for King Kamehameha V.

Other interpretations lead



to that same definition of handwrestling, making the word "hana" refer to work (or the act of doing something). There is a legend about the area in which two chiefs solve a conflict by hand-wrestling, which was a common way to prove strength and settle arguments. They were fighting for the love of a beautiful woman named "Ke-ohinani" (which could be interpreted as "the beautiful young creature"). Whoever prevailed in the challenge would receive the chance to marry Keohinani. In the

end, Keohinani was turned into the curved mountainside near Hanauma bay. After realizing that the strength of the two chiefs may be so great and so matched that it was possible that they both lose their life, Keohinani submitted prayers to the gods to resolve the situation - what she received was immortality as this mountain, which could be admired by both men and anyone who lived in the area. The legend also says that her father, to protect her, took on the shape of a lizard and curled in next to her, forming Koko Head.



Historic information obtained from "Ancient Sites of Oahu" by Van James.  
 Proceeds to Native Hawaiian Culture & Arts Program and Bishop Museum Press. ([www.bishopmuseum.org/press](http://www.bishopmuseum.org/press))



# Senator on the MOVE!

All Month: Senate Committee Hearings (daily) – WAM, WLH, HWN, PGM

All Month: Legislative Session (daily)

Feb. 1 – DLNR Community Forum Kainalu School hosted by Senator Ryan

Feb. 2 – OHA update meeting on Kaka’ako Makai Land Settlement Proposal

Feb. 2. – Kailua Neighborhood Board Meeting

Feb. 4 – Ramsar World Wetlands Day, Kailua

Feb. 4 – AHA Wahine Conference, Windward Community College

Feb. 4 – Taipei Lunar New Year event

Feb. 7 – Autism Speaks Legislative Forum hosted by Senator Ryan

Feb. 9 – Panel Member for Women’s Legislative Caucus Laniakea YWCA

Feb. 12 – Kailua Historical Society Forum, Trinity Christian

School

Feb. 18 – Koolaupoko Lions Club Induction, Waimanalo

Feb. 22 – Waimanalo Town Hall meeting with OHA, DLNR, DHHL hosted by Senator Ryan

Feb. 28 – Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board Meeting



## SESSION 2012

*Committees:*  
Water, Land, and Housing; Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs; Hawaiian Affairs; Ways and Means



# EVENTS

## March 2 and 3, Friday and Saturday

The Friends of Waimanalo Library will be putting on a **Book Sale** at Waimanalo Public School and Library. The book sale will be open from 10am-4pm on Friday and from 10am-2pm on Saturday. Call 259-2610 with any questions.

## March 3, Saturday

There will be a **Zumbathon** at the Windward YMCA (right down the road from Castle Hospital). The four-hour marathon begins at 9am and finishes at 1pm. Call 261-0808 with any questions.

## March 10, Saturday

A special **Mahiku Farmers Market** will be happening at Kailua Elementary School. There will be more than 40 vendors with everything from local BBW to fresh baked goods. Call 225-4002 with any questions or go to the Mahiku Farmers Market website: [www.mahikufarmersmarket.com](http://www.mahikufarmersmarket.com).

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT KAILUA and HAWAII KAI FARMERS MARKETS:

Thursday, 5:30-7:30pm  
Under the parking garage at Longs Drugs

Thursday, 9:30-10:30am  
Parking lot of Kailua Park, Kainalu Drive side

Saturday, 9:00am-1:00pm  
Parking lot of Kaiser High School

Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays  
7:30am-3:00pm  
Hawaii Kai Towne Center, behind Panda Express, facing marina

# FREE TAX HELP AND CLAIM VALUABLE TAX CREDITS!

Thanks to trained and IRS-certified volunteers, you can have your federal and state taxes prepared and filed for free. Locations are across the state. Find the one nearest you and make an appointment today.

**VISIT:**  
[www.hawaiitaxhelp.org](http://www.hawaiitaxhelp.org)

**EMAIL:**  
[info@hawaiitaxhelp.org](mailto:info@hawaiitaxhelp.org)

**Call 2-1-1**  
(AUW's Toll Free Helpline)

Earn it. Claim it. Save it.  
Family and Individual Self-Sufficiency Program

**HACBED**  
Hawaii's Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development



Happy St. Patrick's Day



May your blessings outnumber the Shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

## Participate!

Contacting your District Senator is not the only way to get involved in the Legislative Process; you can also participate by contacting the

### Hawaii Legislature Public Access Room.

#### Contact Information:

Website: <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/>

Email: [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)

#### Phone:

(808) 587-0478 phone  
(808) 587-0749 TTY phone  
(808) 587-0793 fax

Hours: M-F 8:30am - 5pm  
Sat 8am - 2pm

For free tax help from HACBED on the Windward Side, you can go to the following locations:

### Key Project, 47-200 Waihee Road

Open on March 31 from 8am-2pm. The last client will be accepted at 12:30, walk-ins only.

### Honolulu Community Action Program,

Windward District Office, 47-232 Waihee Road

Open Thursdays from 9am-noon. By appointment only, call 808-239-5754 to make an appointment.