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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local ocean users develop guidelines for ocean energy projects**

(Honolulu, Hawai'i) Potential developers of ocean energy projects such as wave and current power or ocean thermal energy conversion now have welcoming guidelines to help them plan and implement ocean energy projects in Hawai'i.

The "Ocean Energy Development Guidelines" were developed by a group of some 30 ocean stakeholders who convened in a series of facilitated meetings co-sponsored by Mālama Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i-based Hawaii Energy Policy Forum and Hawaiian Electric Company.

Among the participating individuals and organizations were representatives of environmental and Hawaiian cultural organizations, fishing, surfing, paddling and marine-life preservation interests, state agencies, the State Legislature and the United States Coast Guard. Dawn N.S. Chang of Ku'iwalu Consulting -- a social worker and attorney who is an expert on land issues and regulatory requirements -- served as facilitator.

The final document is now available on-line at, [www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu](http://www.hawaiienergypolicy.hawaii.edu); [www.hawaiisenergyfuture.com](http://www.hawaiisenergyfuture.com); or [www.malamahawaii.org](http://www.malamahawaii.org).

The document is intended to help developers understand what they need to know, from communications and community relations to environmental concerns. Specifics include suggestions related to working with communities. It also includes a list of individuals who have offered be resource contacts for potential ocean energy developers to assist them in understanding concerns and navigating the community acceptance process.

The document begins with a welcome that says, "Mahalo for considering Hawai'i as a site for your ocean energy project....A broad cross-section of our O'ahu community was convened to create a tool to help you better understand our communities, our relationship to the ocean, and the kinds of issues that are of interest to our people relating to ocean energy."

In a cover letter, representatives of the sponsoring organizations noted, "Many good development projects have failed, or experienced costly and timely challenges in Hawai'i, because developers have failed to engage with our community early and productively. We cannot afford to allow the development of good, sustainable alternative energy projects to fail...."

"To be successful, any ocean energy developer must be patient, listen carefully, and be committed to developing a world-class operation that fully embraces the environmental and cultural values of Hawai'i," the sponsors noted.

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Guideline sections describe what ocean developers need to do, such as communicate with the community early in the process and lead with a concept of giving back. Specific issues that potential developers need to communicate with ocean stakeholders include the size and location of any proposed project, the technology to be used and risks to the natural environment, navigation and fishing, ocean recreation and homeland security. Cultural issues including native Hawaiian traditional rights are discussed along with guidelines for assessing cultural impacts from the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

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