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“A crisis is a terrible thing to waste.”

Paul Romer, Economist

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Hawai‘i Energy Challenge 2008

WAIMEA, October 1, 2008 — “It has been a year of shocks and surprises. First, an oil spike with tremendous ramifications for Hawaii, and now a major crisis in our financial markets,” said Les Goya, chairman of the Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC).

The Waimea-based business and landowner group is sponsoring an energy conference on November 20-21, 2008 at The Fairmont Orchid Hawaii on the Big Island. The two-day event is titled **Hawaii Energy Challenge 2008** (HEC08).

“We saw the energy crunch happening, along with tremendous state interest in promoting renewable energy,” Goya added. “Now, with a recession at hand, a new president and a new mayor about to take office, it’s a good time to get our bearings and plot a pragmatic course for our energy future.”

Jacqui Hoover, HLPC president, is putting the finishing touches on the conference program.

“We’re committed to public outreach, education, and long-range vision and planning,” she said. We organized the conference to take a hard, realistic look at where we stand and where we need to go.”

Headlining the conference program is **Matthew Simmons**, founder and Chairman of Simmons & Company International, an independent investment bank specializing in the entire spectrum of the energy industry. Author of *Twilight in the Desert: The Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy*, Simmons is world-renowned for his insights in the arenas of energy and Peak Oil. During the past year, he has given presentations to the California Institute of Technology, Minnesota State Legislature, ASPO World Oil Conference and the Pentagon on oil supply and America’s energy future.

Addressing national energy policy and the structuring of innovation is **William Bonvillian**, Washington office director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining M.I.T. in 2006, Mr. Bonvillian served as Legislative Director and Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman for 17 years, working extensively

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on legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, intelligence reform, defense and life science R&D, national competitiveness and innovation. His upcoming book, *Structuring an Energy Technology Revolution*, will be released in early 2009.

“We’re delighted to have these distinguished gentlemen kick off our conference,” Hoover said. “We’re equally delighted to bring back an old friend, **Peter Adler**, to facilitate a lively and disciplined series of panel discussions on energy impacts and solutions.”

Peter Adler, Ph.D. formerly an executive with the Hawaii Justice Foundation and Hawaii Supreme Court Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, is now director of the Keystone Center in Colorado.

“We’ve asked many of the best minds and most engaged business and community leaders to examine our situation in the islands and offer their best advice on what we must do,” Hoover added. “They include a strong Big Island contingent. They know the issues on the ground intimately. They are all championing the causes of food and energy security.”

The conference will feature four panel groups, each looking at energy costs and their economic and social impacts in Hawaii. Confirmed featured speakers and panelists include: Maurice Kaya, Strategic Energy Consulting; Terry Surles, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute; William Parks, U.S. Department of Energy; Brennon Morioka, State of Hawaii Department of Transportation; Tony Hanley, Matson Navigation Oakland Office; Robbie Alm, HECO; Jay Ignacio, HELCO; Peter Ingram, Hawaiian Airlines; Colonel Howard Killian, U.S. Army; Randy Perreira, HGEA; Makena Coffman, UH Manoa and Kanu Hawaii; Barry Taniguchi, KTA SuperStores; Mark Fox, The Nature Conservancy; Mawae Morton, Kamehameha Schools; Kyle Chock, Pacific Resources Partnership; Stephen Bowles, Waimea Water Services; Lisa Gibson, Hawaii Science & Technology Council; Richard Ha, Hamakua Springs and chair of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board; Paul Zorner, Hawaii BioEnergy; and Carol Ignacio, Hawaii Island Food Basket.

Ted Liu, director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, is assisting HLPC in presenting the state’s Clean Energy Initiative.

“Our focus is policy issues,” Hoover said. “We’re interested in a civil, facts-based assessment of Hawaii’s pressing energy impacts and our visions and solutions for a self-sufficient and sustainable energy future.”

Hoover can be reached at (808) 960-7503 or (808) 885-9588.

Registration is now available for the two-day conference to be held on November 20-21, 2008 at the Fairmont Orchid Hawaii on the Kohala Coast of Hawaii Island.

For more information and registration, visit HLPC’s dedicated conference website at www.hec08.com.