



# Speaker Bios

## *I. Private Investment in Energy Innovation*

### **Debra Beresini**, *Chief Executive Officer, Invencor; and Managing Director, International Venture Fund*

Debra Beresini is a co-founder and Managing Director of International Venture Fund (IVF), a Silicon Valley based venture fund focused on seed and early stage emerging growth investment opportunities in the geographic areas of Hawaii, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, as well as Silicon Valley. Debra served as CEO of invencor, inc, manager of IVF, since its inception in April 1997. She has held senior positions at AR&D Corp., Ford/US Leasing, Technology Funding, and the National Division at Silicon Valley Bank. She specializes in life science companies. She serves on many boards and a member of the Board of Trustees for Wayne Brown Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. Debra graduated summa cum laude from Dominican University and has a certificate in Global Bio from UC Berkeley.

### **Kyle Datta**, *General Partner, Ulupono Initiative*

Kyle Datta serves as the general partner for the Ulupono Initiative. Previously, Kyle was the CEO of U.S. Biodiesel Group, a national biodiesel firm funded by private equity, Managing Director of Research and Consulting at the Rocky Mountain Institute. He also served as a Vice President at Booz Allen Hamilton, managing partner of the firm's energy practice in Singapore, and leader of the U.S. Utility practice. He has a master's degree in public and private management from the Yale School of Management and a master's degree in environmental science and resource economics from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

### **Karl Fooks**, *President, Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation*

Karl Fooks is the president of the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation, an agency of the state of Hawaii that partners with private sector investors to mobilize investment capital for the growth sector of Hawaii's economy. Formerly, Karl was with J.P. Morgan & Co. as the managing director and head of Private Equity in Asia and head of the Mergers and Acquisitions of Asia. He holds a master's degree from Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Ian Kitajima**, *Marketing Manager, Oceanit*

Ian Kitajima is the Marketing Manager at Oceanit, one the nation's most respected Research and Development companies, based in Downtown Honolulu. His work has taken him to Los Angeles, Asia and Europe.

### **Rob Robinson**, *Managing Partner, Kolohala Ventures*

Robert Robinson co-founded Kolohala in 2006. He is also the founder of Hawaii's angel investor network, the Hawaii Angels. He is the co-author of *Angel Investing: Matching Startup Funds with Startup Companies*, published in 2000. He has an MA in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Cape Town, South Africa; and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Dr. Robinson spent ten years on the faculty of Harvard Business School, and was recruited in 2002 to the University of Hawaii as the Barry and Virginia Weinman Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and E-Business as well as the executive director of the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business (PACE2).

## *II. Public Sector Drivers of Transformation*

### **Keiki-Pua Dancil**, *President & Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Science & Technology Institute*

Keiki-Pua Dancil is the CEO of Hawaii Science & Technology Institute, the State's Largest Tech Advocacy Organization. She has served as Executive Vice President of Syndgren (formerly Hawaii Chitopure) a diversified medical technology company. Keiki-Pua is a Maui native who graduated from Kamehameha Schools and earned a biochemistry degree from the University of California-San Diego, and an MBA and PhD from Harvard.

### **Jennifer Sabas**, *Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye*

Jennifer Sabas is currently the Chief of Staff to Hawaii's U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Prior to her return to Hawaii in January 1993, Jennifer served as an administrative assistant to the Senator in the Washington D.C. office. Overall, she has been with the Senator's office since 1987. She received her law degree from Georgetown University and her BA from the University of Hawaii.

### **Theodore "Ted" Peck**, *State Energy Administrator, Hawaii State Energy Office, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*

Ted Peck is the Hawaii State Energy Office's Administrator at the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT). Ted leads numerous initiatives including the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative partnership between the state and U.S. DOE, renewable energy permitting and facilitation, the state hydrogen program, the greenhouse gas emission reduction task force, and energy assurance planning. He is a former naval engineer, consultant and energy management specialist. Ted graduated with a BS in physics from the U.S. Naval Academy as well as the Naval Nuclear Power School and S1C Nuclear Power Training Unit, which qualified him as a Naval Nuclear Engineer.

### **Christy Sterner**, *Projects Management Engineer, U.S. Department of Energy*

Christy Sterner is a Project Officer with the U.S. Department of Energy in Golden, Colorado. She is a Chemical Engineer and has been with the Biomass Program at DOE for 10 years. Prior to that she was a Research and Development Engineer working on solvent extraction technologies.

### **Bill Farris**, *Vice President of Commercialization & Technology Transfer, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)*

Bill Farris leads NREL's efforts to accelerate commercialization and transfer of the Laboratory's technologies to the marketplace. His organization is comprised of the Licensing, Sponsored Research Agreements, Enterprise Development, and Innovation Management functions at NREL. Bill has spent the last twenty-five years developing, managing and commercializing energy related technologies. He has degrees in Geological Sciences, Radiological Sciences and Technology Management.

### **Joelle Simonpietri**, *J81, Pacific Command, PACOM*

Joelle Simonpietri is a Senior Military Officer at U.S. Pacific Command. Previously, she was a partner at Kolohala Ventures and spent two years at Waste Management Inc.'s \$250 million corporate venture fund. In addition, she has 10 years of operations and general management experience in the Asia-Pacific region as a US Naval intelligence officer and also as a project manager with two startup companies. Joelle has a BS in Neurobiology from Duke University and an MBA in private equity and renewable energy from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

## *III. View from Economic Development Agencies*

### **Pono Shim**, *President & Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Honolulu*

Pono Shim was recently promoted to CEO of Enterprise Honolulu (the Oahu Economic Development Board), a nonprofit corporation that supports a diversified economy. A graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Pono is a gifted storyteller who credits his business acumen and sound value system to growing up in Hawaii and Hawaiian thought. He believes that

Hawaii has all of the resources to compete in today's fast paced world, without losing the value and integrity of the Aloha Spirit.

**Jeanne Skog, *President & Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Development Board***

Jeanne Skog is the President & CEO of Maui Economic Development Board, Inc. (MEDB), a nonprofit organization formed to diversify Maui County's economy. Jeanne leads MEDB's initiatives to assist businesses in engaged in research and development, agriculture, renewable energy, information systems, health care and biotech to root and expand. Through numerous public and private partnerships, MEDB promotes innovations in STEM education statewide, expands economic and financial literacy, and engages the community in the processes that determine our economic future. Jeanne was born and raised on Maui, has a BA from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota and has served on community boards related to education, health, and economic development.

**Jacqui Hoover, *Executive Director, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board***

Jacqui Hoover, born and raised on the Big Island, is the Executive Director of Hawaii Island Economic Development Board and President of Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference. Formerly with the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, Jacqui had the privilege of serving as the Project Manager for the Hawaii Gateway Energy Center, the first Platinum LEED certified facility in Hawaii from concept, engineering & design, through construction. Published works include being a contributor to *Energy for Keeps: Electricity from Renewable Energy*.

**Susan Tai, *Director – Kauai Economic Development Plan, Kauai Economic Development Board***

Susan oversees KEDB's initiatives in Renewable Energy, Food & Agriculture, and Strategic Planning. She also helps manage the update of Kauai County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; and contributed to the Kauai Energy Sustainability Plan. Prior to KEDB, Susan was the Director of the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network's Kauai office; the Director of Entrepreneurship Programs, playing a lead role to create the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (GSB); and Associate Director in Alumni Relations & Development at the GSB. Susan attended the University of Chicago for a BA in biology with a minor in French.

## *IV. Partnering for Success*

**Henk Rogers, *Founder, Blue Planet Foundation***

Henk Rogers is the Foundation's principal and visionary philanthropist. Henk is committed to the mission of stewarding environmental responsibility through developing non-carbon, clean energy sources and is personally committed to helping our planet reduce and eventually eliminate its dependence on fossil fuels. Henk is globally renowned as a true visionary of computer and video games. His company, Blue Planet Software holds the exclusive intellectual property rights to Tetris, the world's most popular video game. He was raised in Holland until 11, attended NYC's Stuyvesant High School, and studied computer science at the University of Hawaii.

**Joel Matsunaga, *Chief Operating Office & Executive Vice President, Hawaii BioEnergy***

Joel Matsunaga joined Hawaii BioEnergy (HBE) in 2008 and is its Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President. His duties at HBE include directing the planning and formation of programs, government relations, communications, capital formation, recruiting, finance, and project management. Joel came to HBE from Hawaiian Telcom where he held various positions within marketing, revenues and earnings, network operations, regulatory affairs and customer relations. He is active in the community and has served on or is currently serving on the boards of a number of civic, charitable and business organizations.

**Lance Tanaka, *Manager of Government & Public Affairs, Tesoro Hawaii Corporation***

Lance Tanaka is manager of government and public affairs for Tesoro Hawaii Corporation. He is the company's chief lobbyist and is responsible for directing media, public and community relations in Hawaii. A subsidiary of San Antonio, Texas-based Tesoro Corporation, Tesoro Hawaii operates the larger of Hawaii's two refineries in Kapolei with a rated capacity of 95,000 barrels per day.

**Scott Seu**, *Manager for Resource Acquisition, Hawaiian Electric Company*

Scott Seu is manager of Hawaiian Electric Company's Resource Acquisition Department, overseeing the company's initiatives in competitive bidding and contracting for new renewable energy generation, renewable technology assessment, and distributed energy resource development. Scott has been with Hawaiian Electric since 1993, serving in a variety of technical and managerial roles including as manager of Hawaiian Electric's Energy Projects, Customer Installations, and Environmental departments. He holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, and is a licensed mechanical engineer in Hawaii.

**Ray Starling**, *Program Manager, Hawaii Energy*

Ray Starling is currently the program manager for Hawaii Energy, which operates the energy efficiency program for Hawaii, Maui and Oahu counties. Prior to this position, he was the managing principal of Hawaii Energy Group, LLC (HEG), an energy consulting and development firm. Ray holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from N.C. State University and a JD from Wake Forest Law School.

## *V. Round 1 HREDV Energy Commercialization Projects*

**Brian Goldstein**, *Global Development, Better Place*

Brian Goldstein leads Better Place operations and business development in Hawaii. Brian has over 20 years senior management experience in the software, technology and renewable energy industries. Before joining Better Place, he was CEO of Sunrise Capital, co-founder and Executive VP at Hoana Medical, co-founder and CEO of Vivaldi Networks and held number of management positions at Brio Software and Oracle Software. Brian holds an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management and a BS in Business Management from Arizona State University.

**Rod Hinman**, *Principal, Aurora Research; Local Technical Representative, Satcon Technology*

Dr. Rod Hinman received his SB and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, using power electronics techniques to reduce power consumption of logic circuits. His career has centered around energy efficient technologies like electric vehicles and fluorescent ballasts that communicate optically. Currently, he is principal of Aurora Research, LLC, on the Island of Hawaii, which consults on renewable energy R&D and embedded system design.

**Steve Brennan**, *Vice President for Business Development, Concentris Systems*

Steve Brennan is vice president of business development at Concentris. Steve has over 15 years of experience in marketing and sales in the telecommunications industry. Prior to Concentris, Steve was a marketing manager at Spirent Communications and also served on the staff of the Governor of Hawaii. He has an MBA from the University of Hawaii.

**Heidi Kuehnle**, *Chief Executive Officer, Kuehnle AgroSystems*

Dr. Adelheid (Heidi) Kuehnle is CEO and co-founder of Kuehnle AgroSystems Inc., a life science company specializing in algae to solve real world problems. Heidi has authored six books and book chapters, more than 60 scientific papers, and is an inventor on 14 patents. Kuehnle was named the 2008 Scientist of the Year at the University of Hawaii. She has also been named the winner of the 2008 Hawaii Technology Industry Award and the Governor's Innovator Award in November 2008. In 2009, the Hawaii Venture Capital Association names her "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the Invention category. She is a former tenured professor from the University of Hawaii, Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences with over 20 years of experience in plant breeding and biotechnology. Heidi has a BA from Middlebury College and a PhD in Plant Breeding from Cornell University.

**Jim Maskrey**, *Vice President for Technology Development, Sopogy*

Jim Maskrey has been with Sopogy for 3 ½ years. As Vice President of Technology, he is responsible for Research and Development, new product development, testing, design for manufacturing, equipment certification, and project implementation support. Jim brings 25 years in the energy efficiency and renewable energy experience. He most recently spent 10 years with Hawaiian Electric Company where he served as the Commercial Energy Efficiency Programs manager.