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Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative 2011 Achievements & 2012 Priorities

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The Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative (HGG) brings Hawai'i leaders from energy, food and the environment together to achieve Hawai'i's sustainability goals and be a model for integrated green growth.

Formed in 2011, HGG's major achievements in its first year include:

- ❖ Initiated the first collaboration among public and private sector leaders and organizations in the energy, food, environment, and related green sectors.
- ❖ Spearheaded discussions with the U.S. State Department to give Hawai'i a special role for Hawai'i as a U.S. early example of green growth. This resulted in the *APEC 2011 & Hawai'i Green Growth Briefing* with U.S. Ambassador Kurt Tong.
- ❖ Secured an invitation for Hawai'i's active participation in the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan review and strategic implementation to address invasive species threats from the Guam buildup. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council accepted this opportunity to strengthen protection for Hawai'i in a formal resolution.
- ❖ Provided multi-sector input to strengthen the State's new watershed plan, *The Rain Follows the Forest*, to replenish Hawai'i water sources by doubling protection of mauka (mountain) forest watershed in the next ten years and to begin developing a collaborative strategy for increasing green funding mechanisms.
- ❖ Made strategic recommendations for the Hawai'i Legislature to advance implementation of Hawai'i's sustainability goals.
- ❖ Introduced cross-sector approach for Green Growth in Hawai'i & internationally.

Building on these early successes, HGG's strategic priorities for 2012 include working with partners to:

- ❖ Ensure tangible progress on the *Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative*, *Rain Follows the Forest*, green funding mechanisms and other major statewide sustainability initiatives.
- ❖ Develop a statewide public-private partnership committed to achieving Hawai'i's sustainability goals and tracking progress with practical indicators.
- ❖ Strengthen Hawai'i's working partnerships with Micronesia, Pacific and other islands on shared strategic priorities, including invasive species, marine and watershed management and sustainability planning.
- ❖ Work with the U.S. State Department to invite Hawai'i to a high profile international event to represent U.S. early commitment to integrated green growth.