



31 January 2012

Letter of support for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa "Smart, Sustainable Microgrid" proposal for the National Science Foundation's "Sustainable Energy Pathways" Program

To whom it may concern:

Blue Planet Foundation strongly supports the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa "Smart, Sustainable Microgrid" proposal for the National Science Foundation's "Sustainable Energy Pathways" Program. We believe that the University of Hawai'i is perfectly suited for accelerating progress in smart grid and clean energy integration technologies. The proposed program builds on the existing leadership and capacity that the University of Hawai'i has demonstrated in this regard.

Blue Planet is a Honolulu-based nonprofit (501(c)3) whose mission is to end the use of fossil fuels on Earth, starting by making Hawai'i a global leader for smart, sustainable energy solutions. Blue Planet actively shapes clean energy policy at the Hawai'i State Capitol and before the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Blue Planet also directly engages communities with smart energy choices and helps residents and businesses overcome barriers that prevent greater adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition to our policy work and dedicated programs, Blue Planet is building a social movement for clean energy and educating citizens about how to change our energy culture.

Blue Planet also works to bring better understanding of the pathways to integrating greater amounts of renewable energy onto Hawai'i's electrical grids. Currently, Blue Planet is party to a docket before the PUC to establish reliability and interconnection standards for renewable integration. With relatively small island electrical grids and increasing levels of variable energy sources (particularly wind and solar), Hawai'i is poised to be the test bed for developing and deploying innovating solutions for high-penetration wind and solar resources. These solutions include a portfolio of demand response, grid intelligence, and energy storage capabilities, as well as attitudinal and behavioral changes to enable such a broad transformation. Blue Planet believes that the multi-disciplinary approach proposed by the University of Hawai'i team will provide valuable new tools and information to facilitate this transformation.

Blue Planet has developed extensive community and media ties and looks forward to assisting with community engagement and outreach on the proposed project, as well as collaborate in

any other capacity. Blue Planet has worked with the principal investigators of the University of Hawai'i's Renewable Energy & Island Sustainability team on related programs. We view this proposal as a valuable extension of our partnership and believe that the outcomes will be relevant and useful to communities outside Hawai'i as well.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to discuss the University of Hawai'i's "Smart, Sustainable Microgrid" proposal or Blue Planet's collaboration on this study further. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Mikulina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent than the last name "Mikulina".

Jeff Mikulina
Executive Director