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Hawaii Petroleum Marketers Association

Legislative Issues

We are in the midst of the 2016 legislative session and had hoped that this session would be a quiet one for us, but unfortunately our legislators have found new ways to frustrate us.

We have had a few bills designed to completely eliminate the use of gasoline and diesel for ground transportation use in Hawaii by 2045. Fortunately, for now these bills have morphed into requiring studies of how to get to this petroleum-free nirvana as opposed to mandates requiring that we get there. We'll see how the studies turn out!

At press time, the most challenging proposal for us is that the state intends to prohibit the operation of underground storage tanks within one hundred yards of the shoreline. There are many retail stations in Hawaii that are within one hundred yards of the shoreline, so this proposal will have a significant impact. The justification is that rising sea levels brought on by global warming will inundate these tanks and risk "our aquifers, coastal water quality, and marine ecosystems." Existing tanks may be grandfathered in for a while but can't be replaced.

The Ethanol Mandate Repeal

Hawaii's mandate was repealed last year after ten years in place. The impact has been zero, as refiners and blenders still must meet Federal Renewable Fuels regulations so blending ethanol continues as before. Some retail customers were not happy about this but the vast majority either didn't notice or don't care that much.

Chevron Hawaii Sale

Back in 2014 Chevron announced that they were looking at their options for their Hawaii assets, including a possible sale of those assets. We've heard plenty of rumors since then, but there has been no official word from Chevron.

Richard Parry (Aloha Petroleum), President HPMA