

# Feasibility of Ammonia Production in Hawaii from Curtailed Renewables for Food and Fuel Security

**h<sub>2</sub>technologies**

**NH<sub>3</sub> Fuel Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
September 20, 2011**

# Hawai'i has no indigenous sources of Fossil Fuels: Coal, Oil or Natural Gas



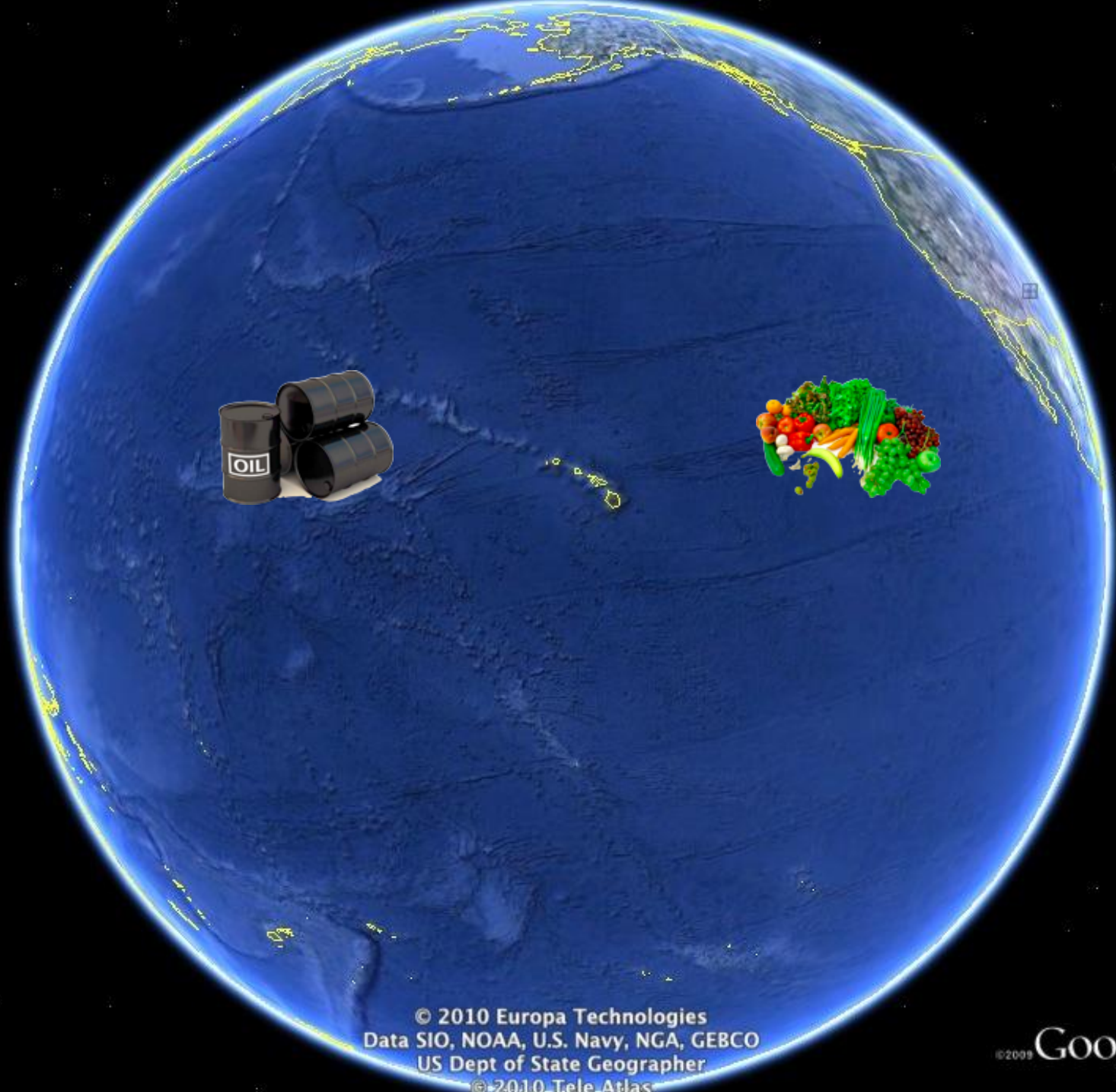
Coal



Natural Gas



Oil



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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
US Dept of State Geographer

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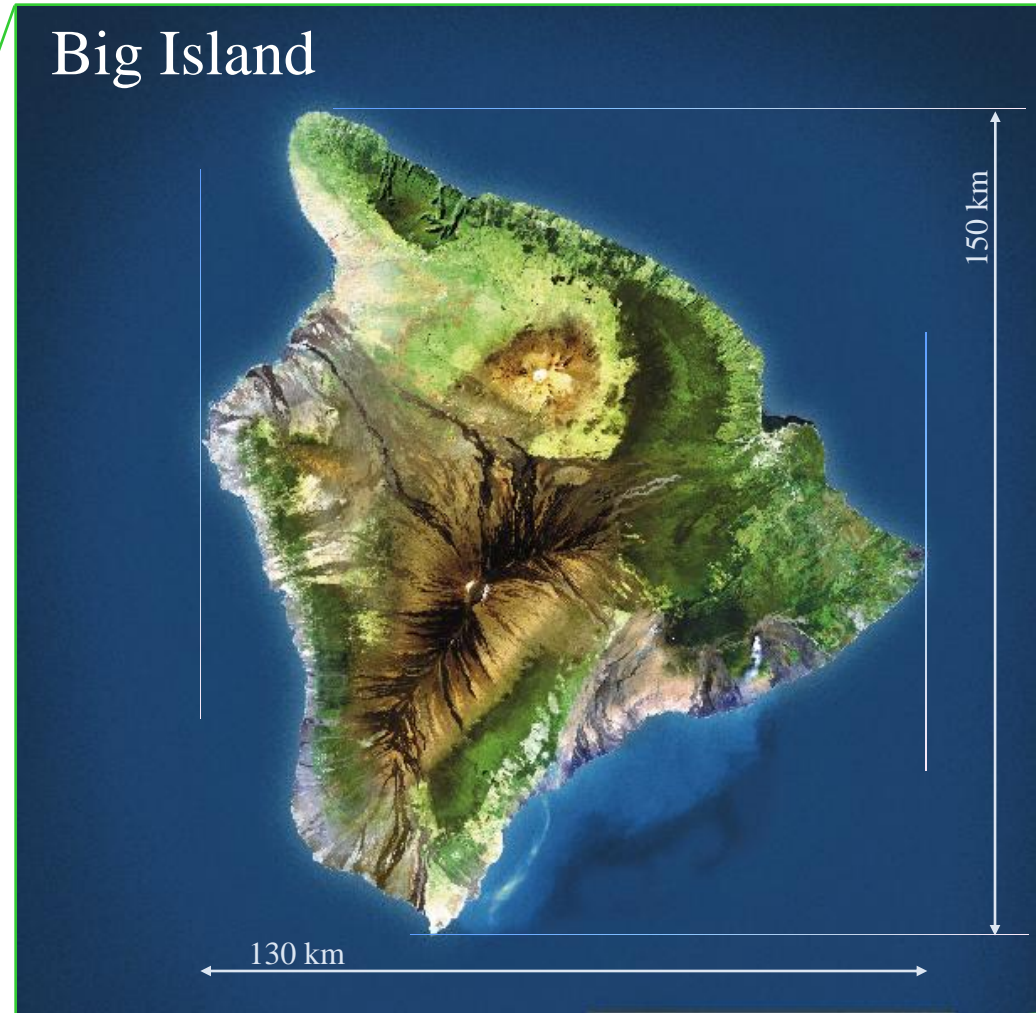
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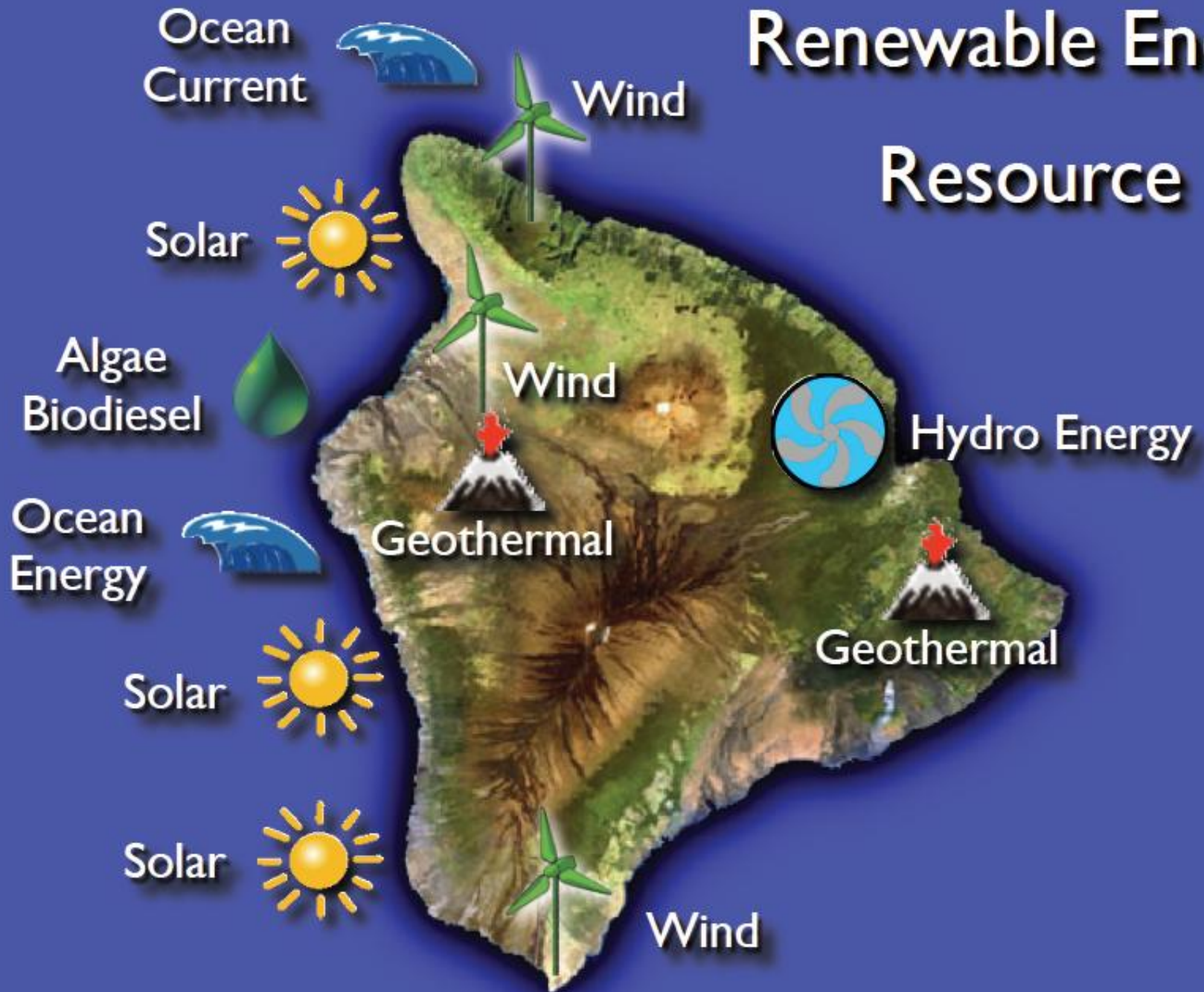
# The Island of Hawai'i (Big Island)

- Large land mass
- Low population density
- High quality wind
- >1500MW of geothermal potential
- Ample hydro-electric potential
- Tourism economy
- Go to bed early

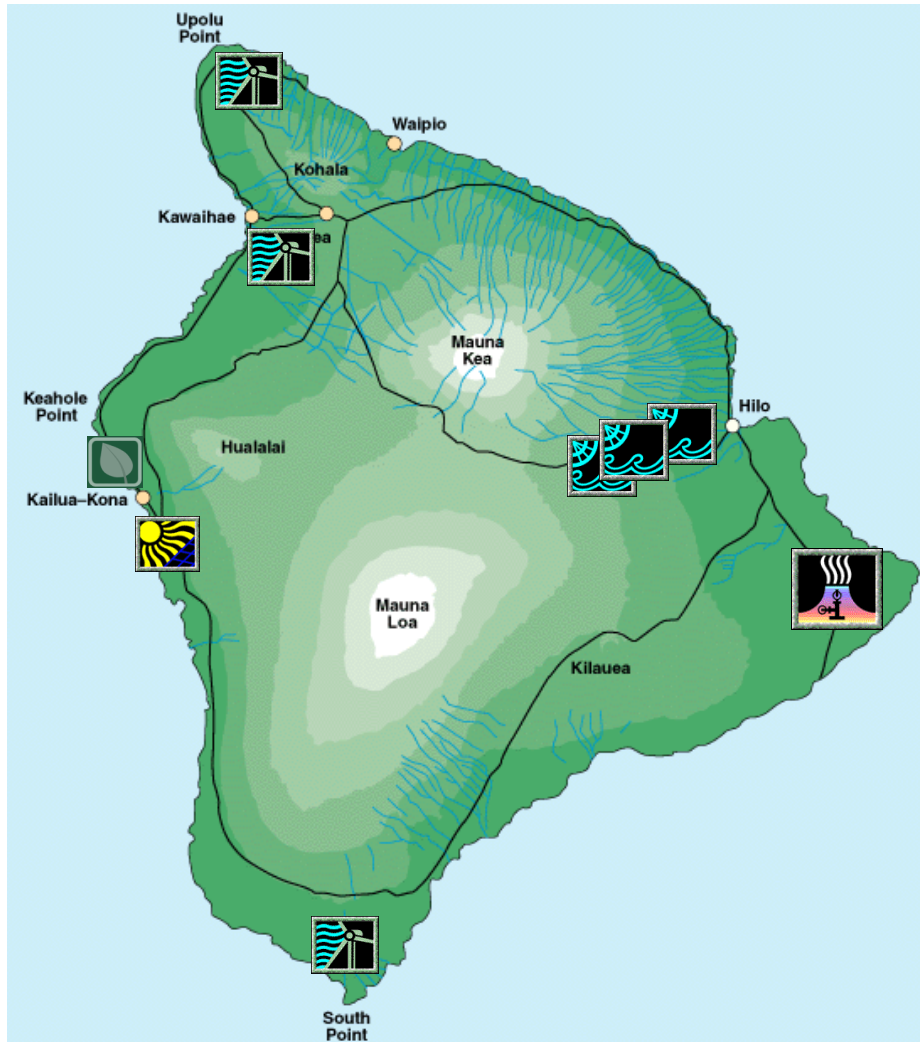




# Renewable Energy Resource Map



# Hawaii – Existing Renewable



- 269 MW capacity
- 203 MW peak demand
- 70 MW off-peak baseload
  
- Puna Geothermal – 41 MW
- Sopogy – 500kw - NELHA
- Solfocus – TBD - NELHA
- Hawi – 10.5 Wind – Upolu Point
- Pakini Nui – 20.5 MW Wind – S Point
- Lalamilo Wind – 1.2 MW – Waimea
- Puueo Hydro – 3.25 MW – Wailuku
- Waiau Hydro – 1.1 MW – Wailuku
- Wailuku River Hydro – 12.1 MW
- Cellana – Biofuel TBD – NELHA
- Small Hydro – 300 KW – Various
- Distributed Solar Thermal – 13GWh
- Distributed Solar Electric – 7.5 MW

# Electricity market on the Big Island is saturated

**Need to find ways to utilize curtailed power from geothermal to allow expansion of geothermal use on Hawaii**

Evaluate near-term use of electrolyzers for:

- Hydrogen production
- Ammonia production
- Peak power production





**Geothermal + Wind + Hydro  
[off-peak hours]**

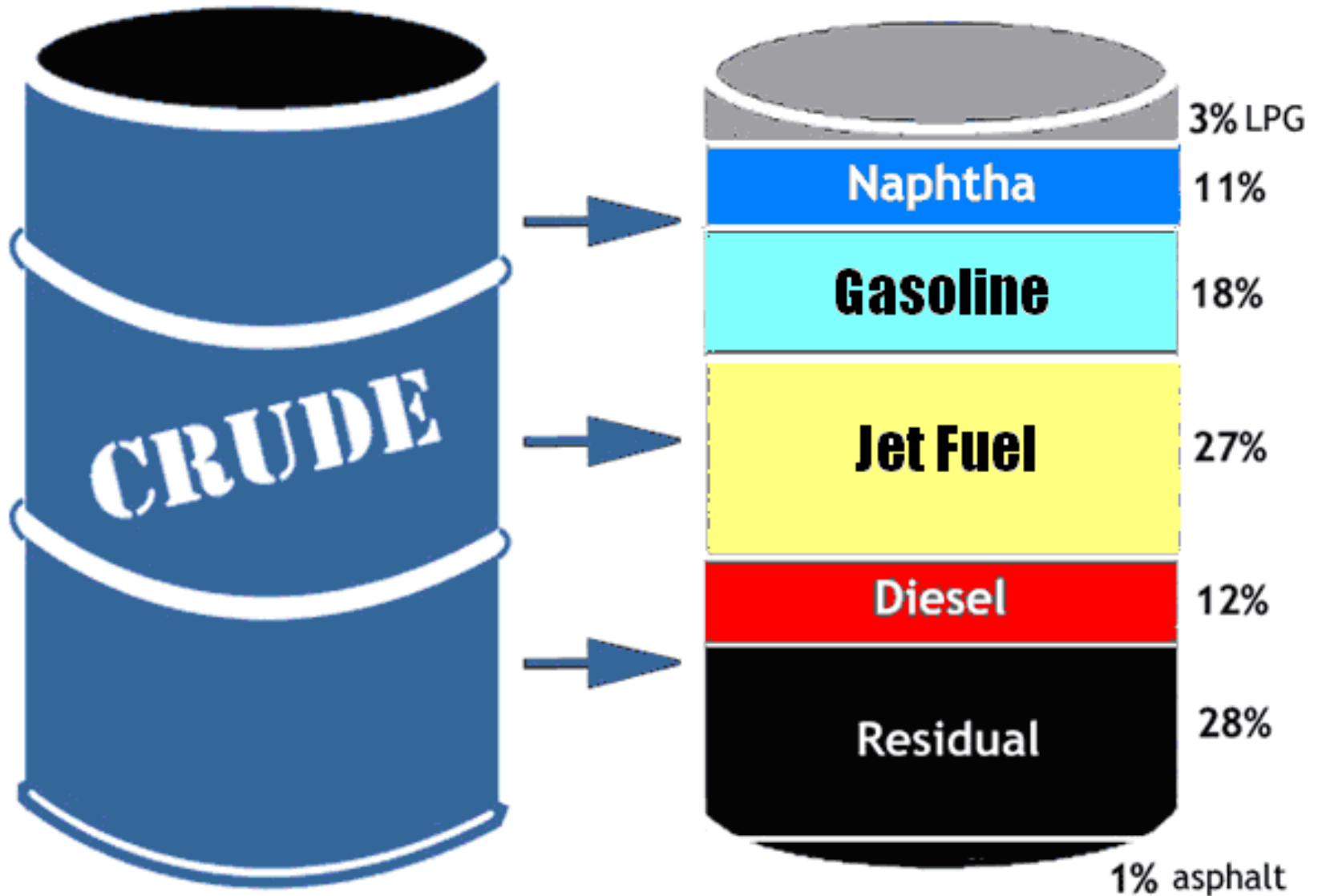
**=**

**Curtailment = Waste**



**Curtailment = Fuel/Fertilizer**

# Energy Currencies Hawaii



Distillation Fraction of Products

# Renewable Fuel Strategy for Hawaii

- **Hydrogen**
  - Fuel Cell Vehicles and Stationary Power
- **Ammonia**
  - Fertilizer for Farming Industry
  - Hydrogen Carrier
  - Stationary Power Gensets
- **Methanol (via Hydrogenation of CO<sub>2</sub>)**
  - Transesterification
  - Oxygenate for gasoline 10%
  - US Army DMFC
  - Methanol to Gasoline (MTG)
  - Methanol to Aviation Fuel



# Market Drivers Through Legislation

## **HRS 196-10: Hawaii Renewable Hydrogen Program**

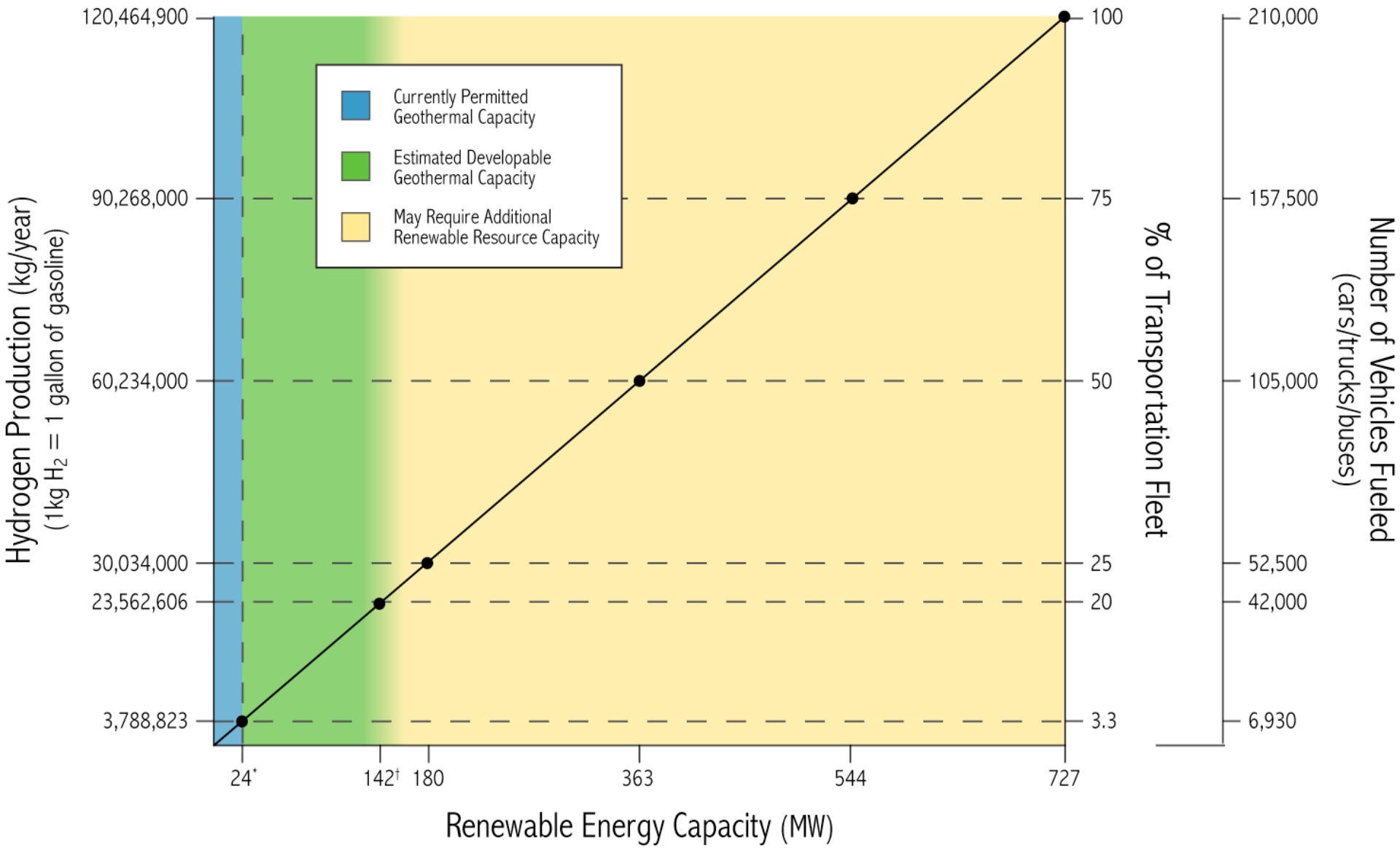
- **Objective: transition state to a renewable hydrogen economy by:**
  - **Strategic R&D, testing & deployment of renewable hydrogen technologies;**
  - **Engineering & economic evaluations & near-term project opportunities;**
  - **Electric grid reliability & security projects to increase penetration of renewable energy on Big Island**
  - **Hydrogen demonstration projects including infrastructure, storage, and refueling hydrogen vehicles**
  - **Promote Hawaii renewable hydrogen resources to potential partners & investors;**

## Investment Incentives Through Legislation

# **SB 772: Renewable Fuel Facility Investment Tax Credit**

- **Objective: Create an incentive for development of local non-fossil renewable fuel plants in Hawaii:**
  - **100% of investment returned to investor as tax credits;**
  - **Tax credits can be taken in 1 year or rolled over;**
  - **Must be a Hawaii based company**
  - **Company must be a “Qualified High Technology Business” as deemed by the State of Hawaii Dept of Taxation**

# Hydrogen Production Potential on the Big Island



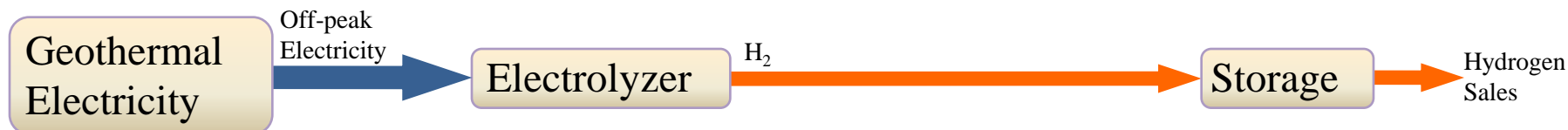
\* 24 MW of 60 MW currently permitted geothermal capacity is utilized for H<sub>2</sub> production

† 142 MW of total 180 MW developable capacity is utilized for H<sub>2</sub> production

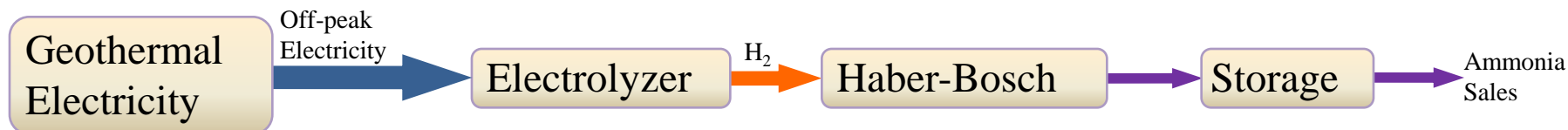


# System Components

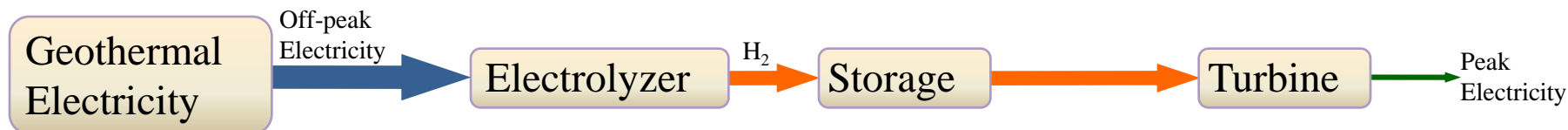
## Hydrogen Production



## Ammonia Production

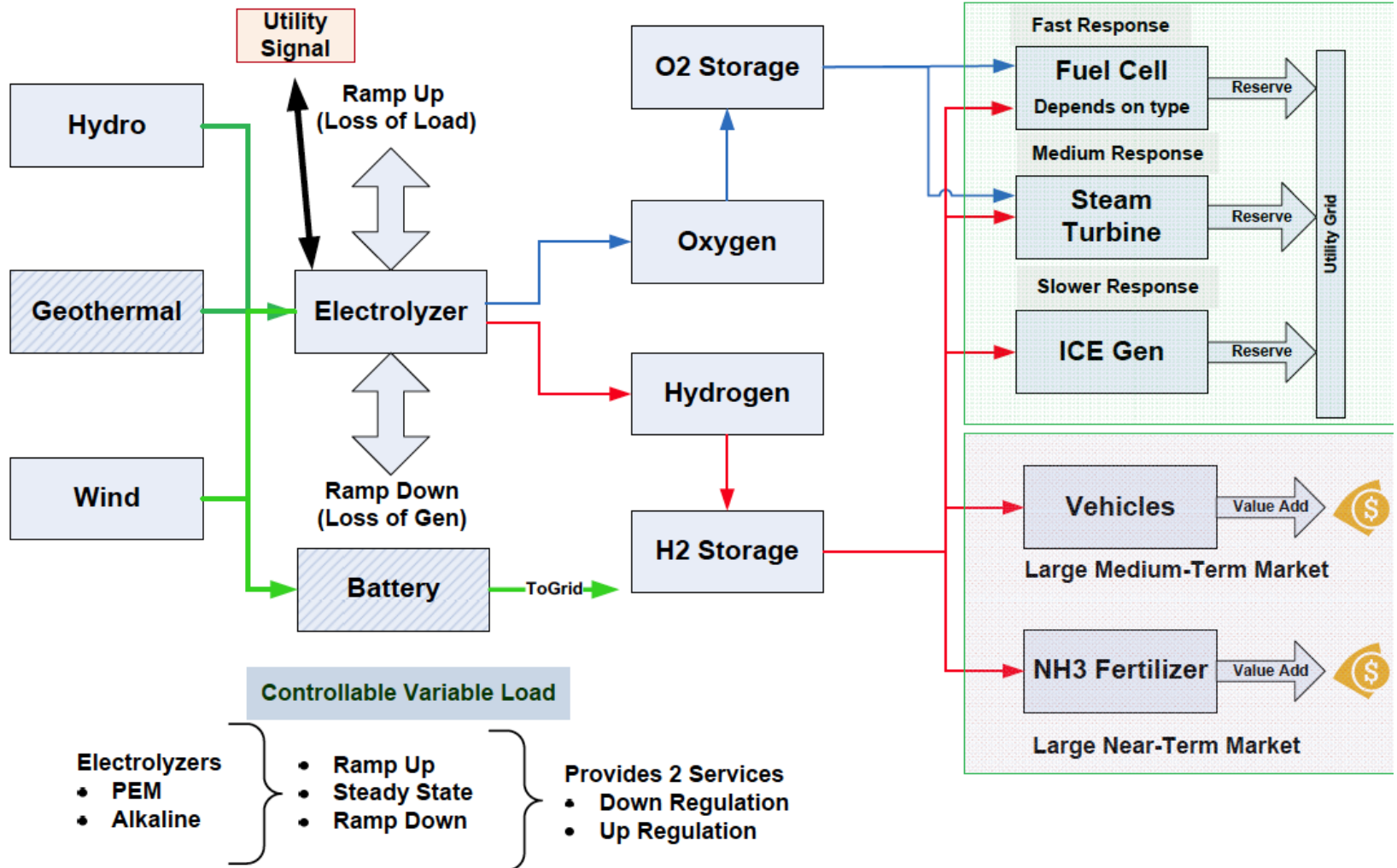


## Peak Power Production



# Electrolyzers, Fuel Cells & Hydrogen A New Value-Added Grid Services Methodology

Different Characteristics  
lead to different Services



## Value Proposition – Change Operating Rules

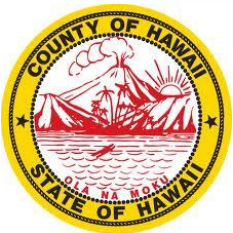
- **FROM:** Wind up = Reserve up
- **TO:** Reduce Reserve requirement by throttling electrolyzer up and down
- **PLUS:** Electrolyzer producing valuable products while providing grid regulating ancillary services = potentially more value than just H2?

Hydrogen Vehicles have arrived and  
Infrastructure coming soon.





# Ford H2ICE Shuttle Van for MTA



- Engine 225 hp
- 12 passengers + driver
- Compressed hydrogen – 5,000 psi
- Range – 150 miles

# Hydrogen Infrastructure – Renewable H2





# A need to localize fertilizer production using available resources



# Immediate Demand for Ammonia in Hawaii

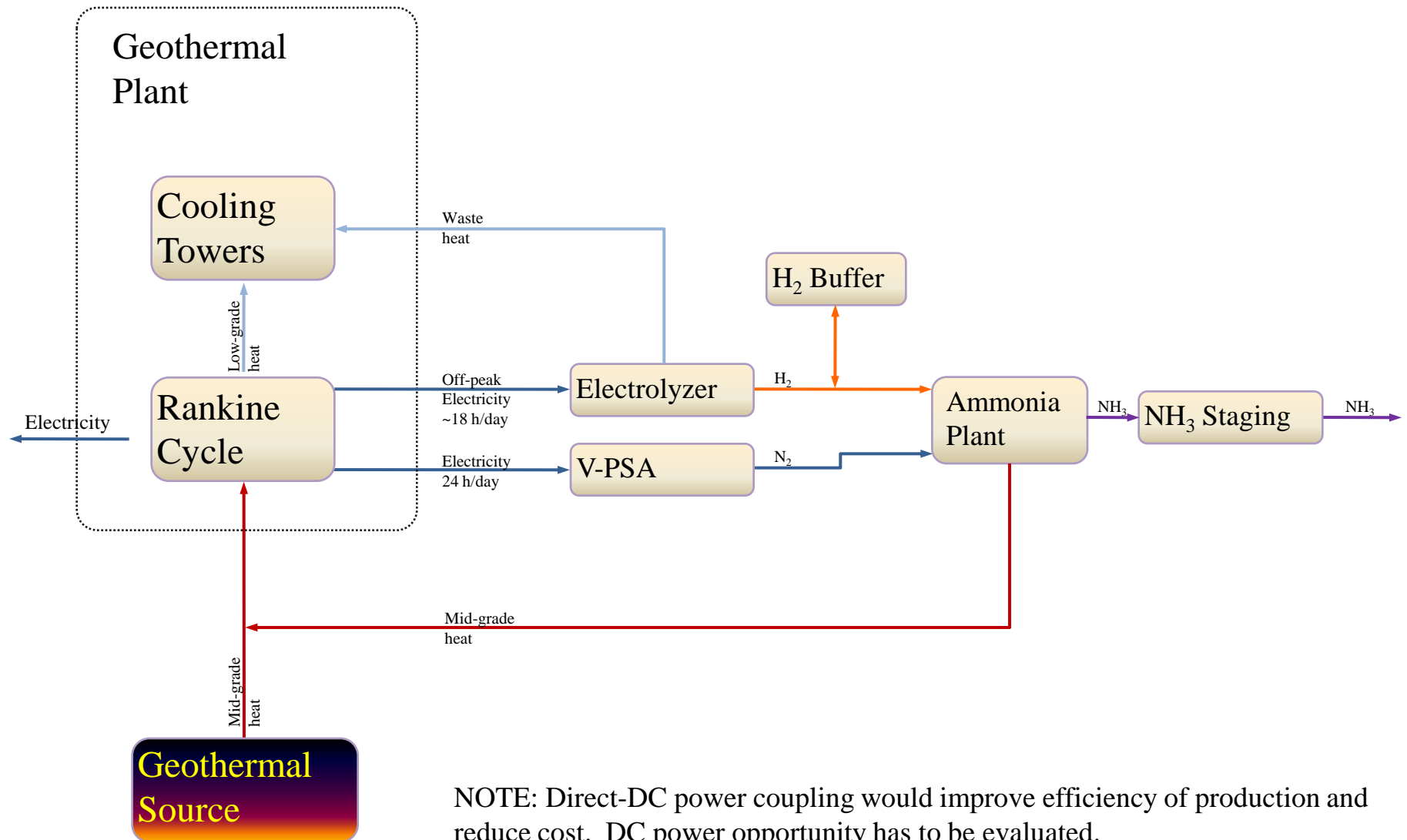
HC&S 6.8 T/D of Urea



3.8 T/D of NH<sub>3</sub>

Analyst est. to be 9-10 T/D of NH<sub>3</sub>

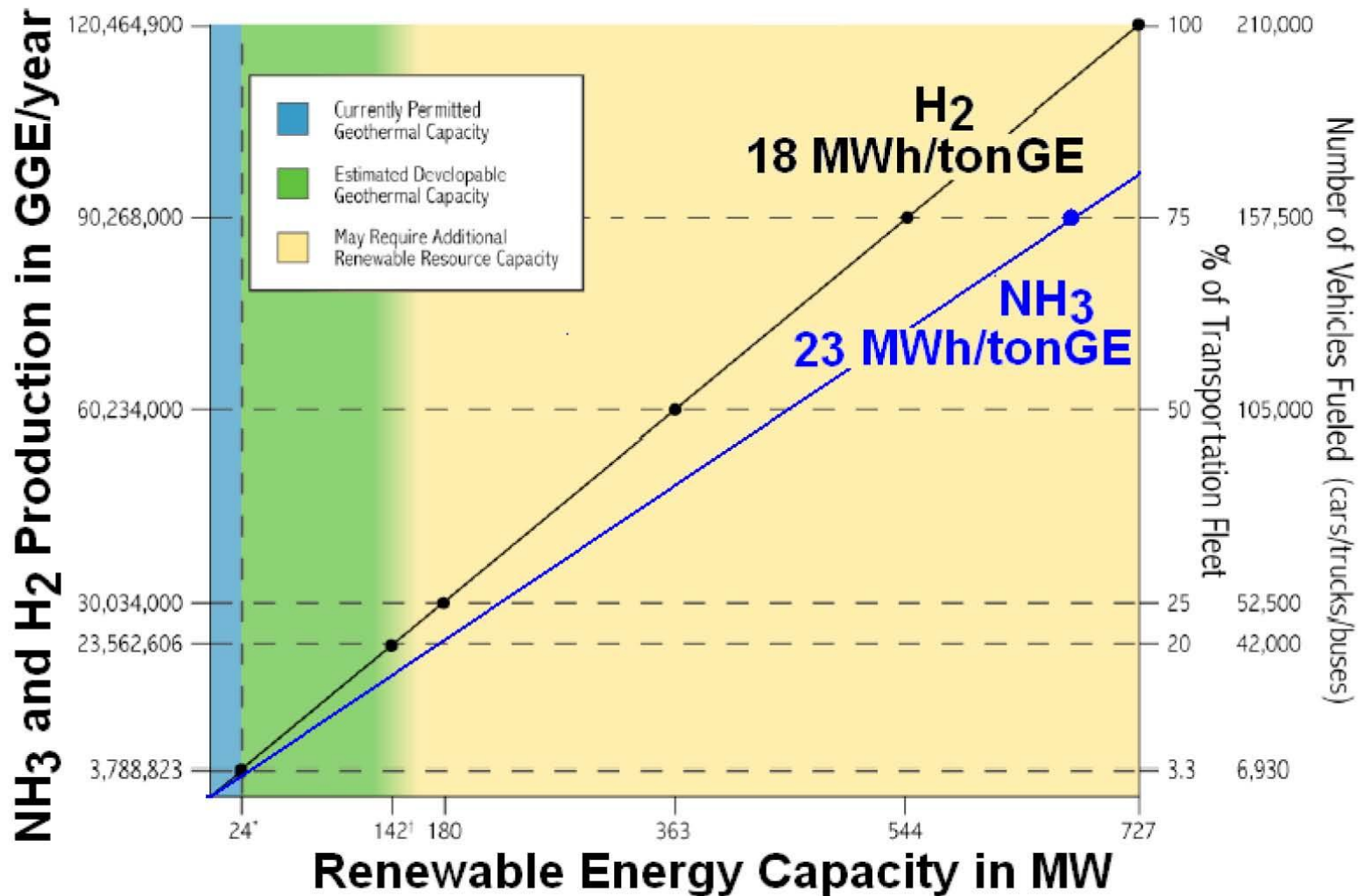
# Ammonia Production



NOTE: Direct-DC power coupling would improve efficiency of production and reduce cost. DC power opportunity has to be evaluated.



# NH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> Production Potential for the Big Island



\* 24 MW of 60 MW currently permitted geothermal capacity is utilized for H<sub>2</sub> production

† 142 MW of total 180 MW developable capacity is utilized for H<sub>2</sub> production

# Levellized Cost of NH<sub>3</sub> as a Function of Electricity Cost

## Assumptions\*:

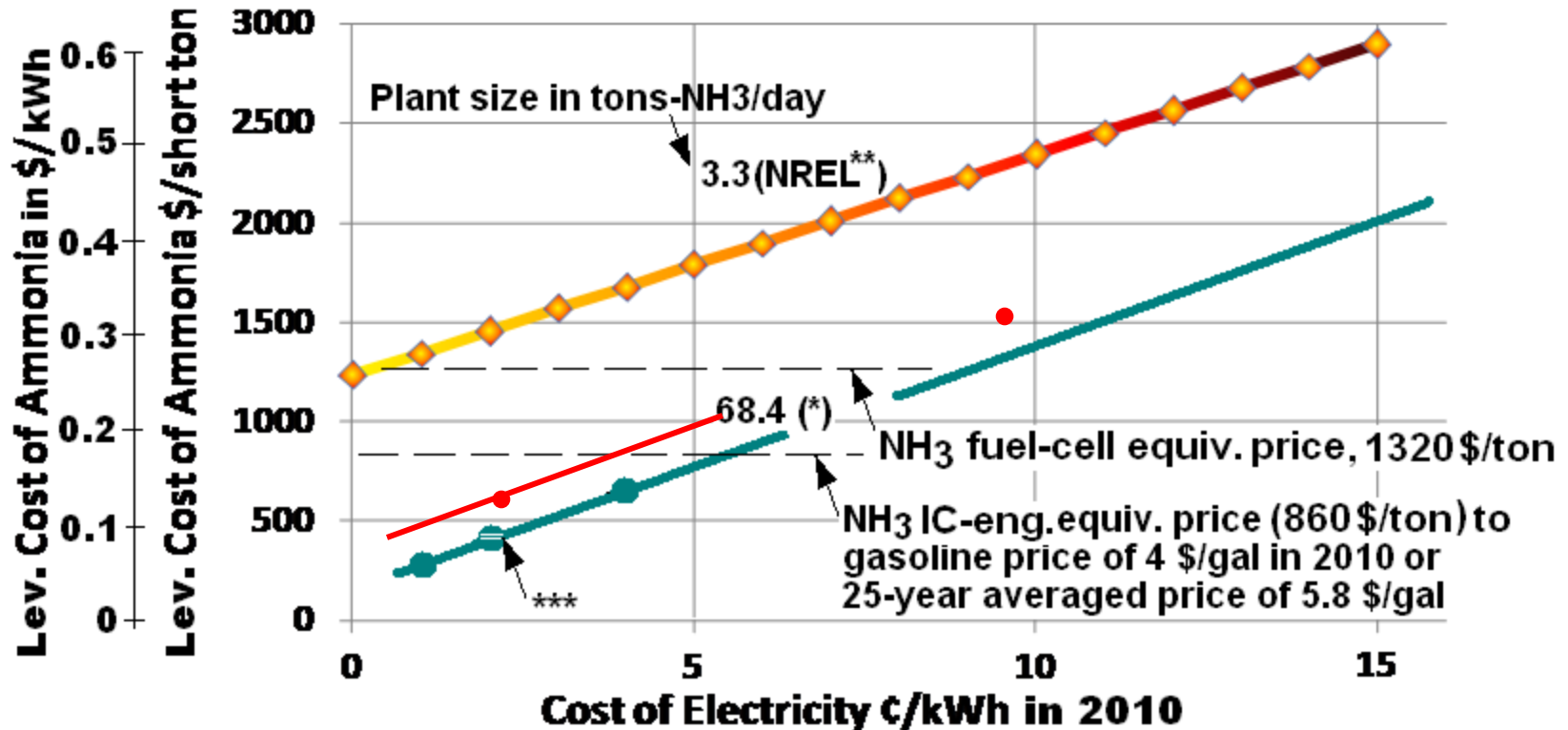
NH<sub>3</sub> plant input: 30 MW or 720 MWh/day; efficiency: 10.5 MWh/ton-NH<sub>3</sub>,

NH<sub>3</sub> plant cost: 6 \$(/gal/y) or 52.7 M\$, installed; loan: 5%/y; **1.76 \$/W**

NH<sub>3</sub> Plant output: 68.4 tons-NH<sub>3</sub>/day; 25-year service. O&M: 3.9% capital/y

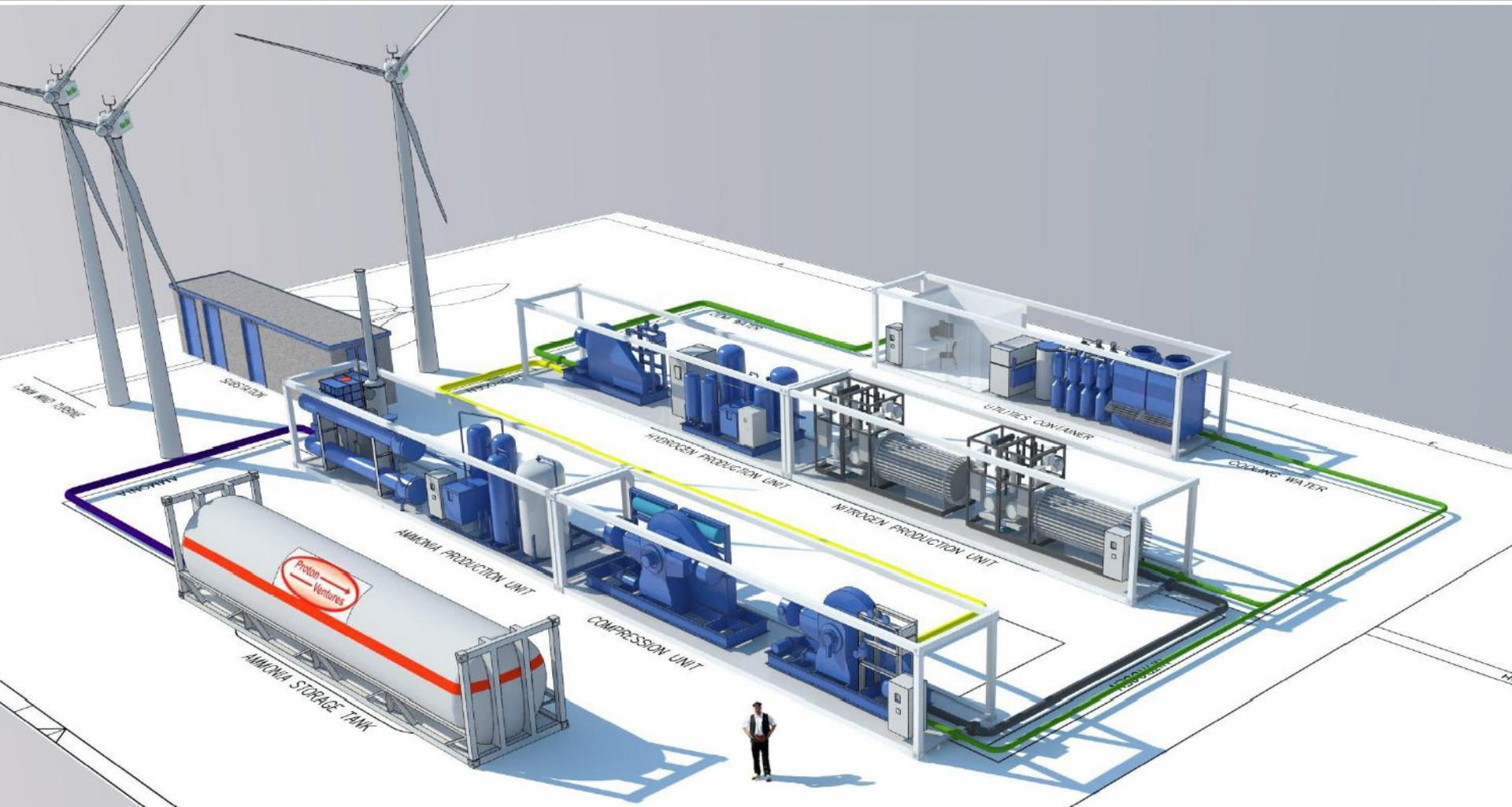
Gasoline 2010 price & escal.; 4 \$/gal & 3%/y; electricity & O&M escal.: 1.5%/y

Benchmarking: US GDP tot. energy use: **4.2 \$/W**; GDP electr. use: 3.6 \$/kWh



\*\*\* Increase due to engine conversion cost of \$10 k per bus

# Proton Ventures 3.3T/D Pilot



# Challenges

- **Low Acceptance by Farmers**
  - High Cost
  - Not suitable for many of Hawaii's crops
  - Perceived as too dangerous
  - Ag industry (with exception of HC&S) not used to handling NH<sub>3</sub>
- **Not Used as Fuel Yet**
  - Concerns by DOH Clean Air Branch
  - High Cost



# Ammonia-Based Economy Program for HI

**Objectives:** Demonstrate ammonia-based mini-economy

**Approach and Tasks:** Team with “shovel-ready” businesses

**Analysis:** Complete a more in-depth analysis of the overall economics and economic sensitivities. Model and support plant performance and infrastructure

**Environmental Agreements:** Negotiate agreement for 25+ years of low-cost electricity with PGV and wind generators. Insure a role for HELCO and get PUC’s blessing. Upgrade grid lines between PGV and NELHA.

**NH3-Vehicles:** Team with automotive conversion (University of Hiroshima) to build and deliver 3-4 ammonia vehicles (AVs)

**Install Mini-Plants:** Acquire, install and operate 2 mini-plants of 3.2 tons/day (120kg/hour,  $3.2 \times 2000 / 5.69 \times 0.42 = 472$  GGE/day, enough to drive 15-25 vehicles 20-30 miles each day, if plant runs 24/7) to demo how much lower in cost the second one will be, and to have redundancy, so that one plant can make and sell ammonia; the other to develop process improvements, NH3 fuel cell, and explore new applications (energy storage, fertilizer, refrigerant, etc)

**Developments:** Develop and demo dual use SSAS for fuel cell use and to make ammonia production cheaper and maximally efficient

**Permits:** Test emissions and get the permits (EPA, DOH, PUC,...),

**Applications:** Develop dispensing/filling of ammonia to vehicles and to farmers. Plan and execute demo of energy storage (bench-top??). Team with farm coop

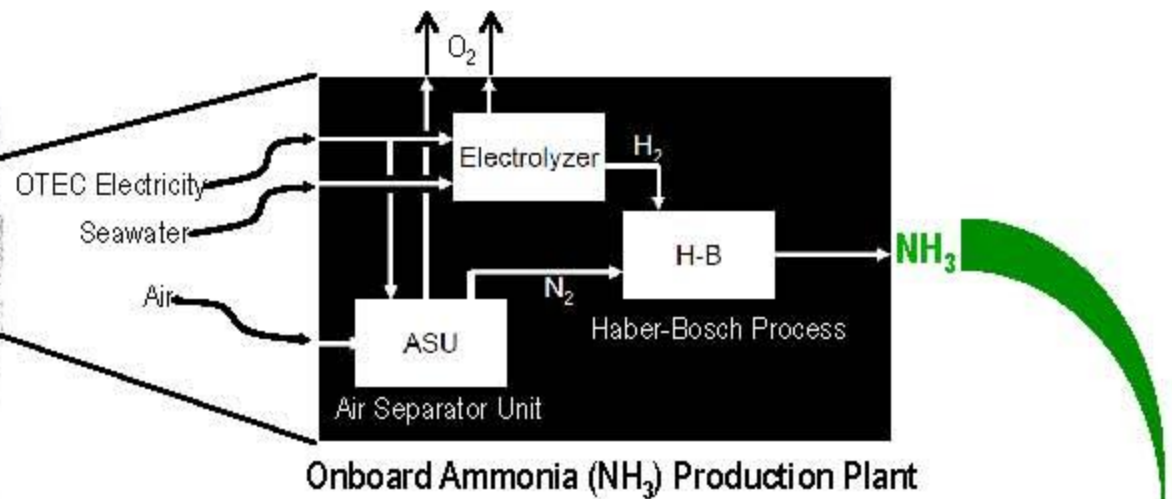
**Program Mgmt. & Reporting:** Prepare and submit comprehensive reports (Monthly, Annual and Final), with technical and regulatory recommendations

**Resources:** Time – 3-4 years and 15-20 M\$

<u>k\$</u>
1,000
2,000
7,000
2,000
500
3,000
<u>3,000</u>
18,500

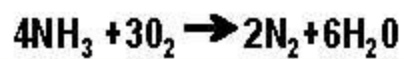


**OTEC Pilot Plant**

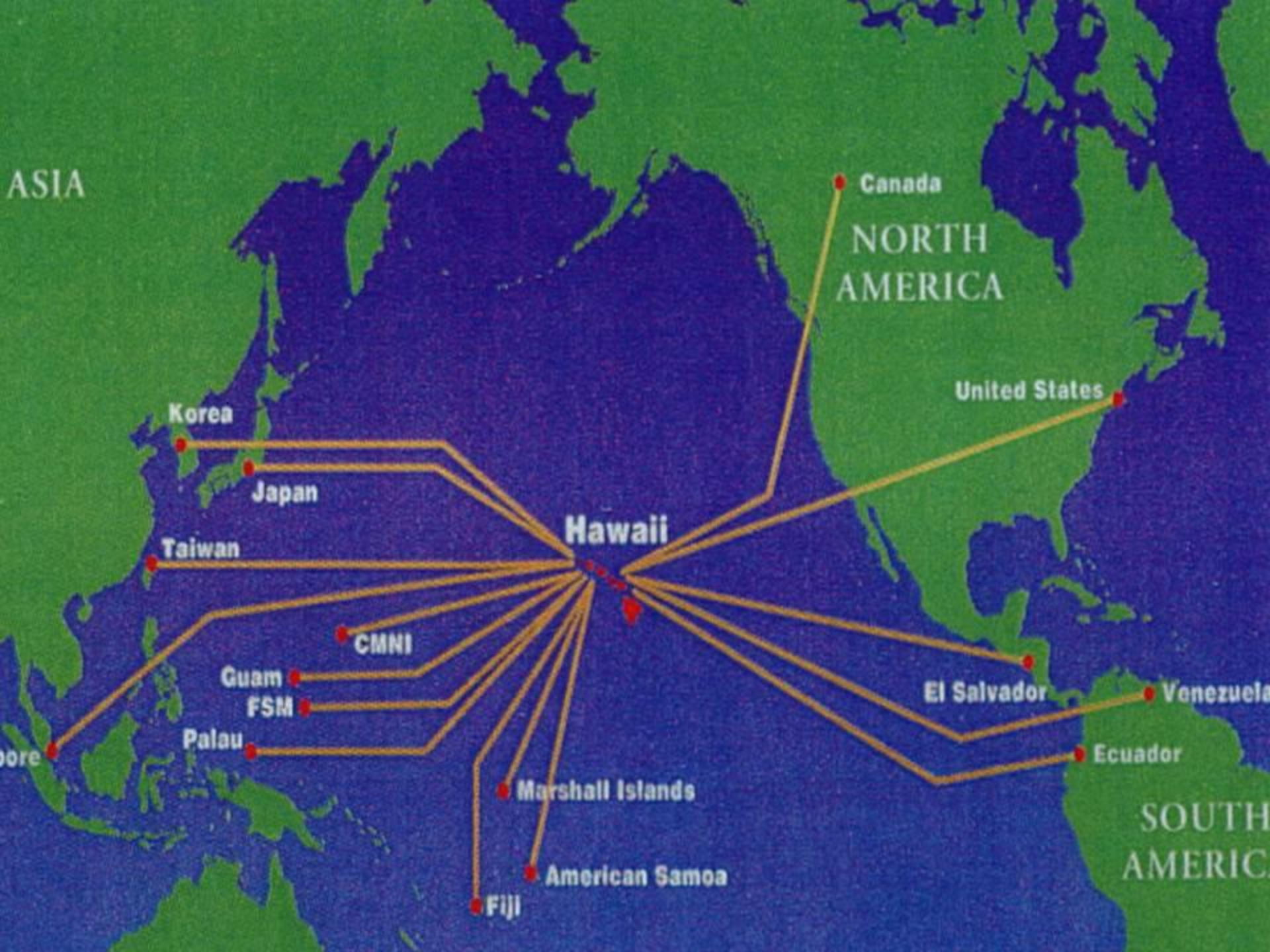


- Complete creation to end user process : renewable energy to engines
- Easier to transport than H<sub>2</sub>
- No carbon
- Technology presently available
- Process only needs air, water and electricity
- Containerized and fieldable fuel system
- NH<sub>3</sub> fuel can be used in conventional engines with slight modification

## NH<sub>3</sub> Uses







# R水素コミュニティをつくろう [ハワイ島編]

水素のながれ   
電気のながれ 

## 1 自然エネルギー



OTEC  
(海洋温度差発電)

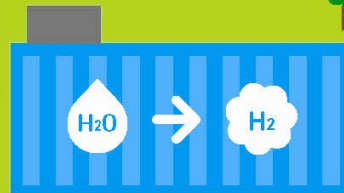
電気をつかう

## 2 水素をつくる



地熱発電  
(温泉熱利用発電)

あまった  
電力



## 3 水素をためる

H<sub>2</sub>

水素タンク

## 4 つかう

H<sub>2</sub> Station

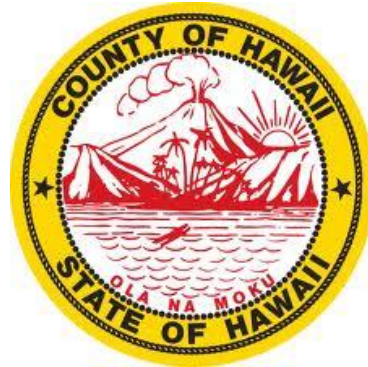
観光用に水素燃料バスを使用

水素ステーション

アンモニア (NH<sub>3</sub>) をつくり、肥料に



# Kokua Team



# Mahalo!

Hawi Wind Farm. 10.5MW.  
53% Capacity Factor



Go  
Ducks!